

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 1994

No Israeli-Syrian peace without direct talks — U.S.

SHANNON AIRPORT, Ireland (Agencies) — Israel and Syria will never make peace without returning to direct negotiations but for now the U.S. mediation role is critical, a senior U.S. official said Friday.

The official, travelling with Secretary of State Warren Christopher on his latest Middle East peace mission, said that while Israel and Syria are now seriously engaged in detailed negotiations on the Golan Heights, "wide gaps" remain in their positions and it is unclear how soon peace might be achieved.

But both sides agree that if Washington ended its current efforts to carry and explain proposals between Israel and Syria, forward movement in the peace process would come to a halt, said the official, briefing reporters on Mr. Christopher's plane before continuing those talks.

"We want to cement and create deeper roots for those kinds of discussions so that we don't have other factors intrude on that which would make it more difficult to try to make headway."

Mr. Christopher's U.S. Air Force jet refuelled at Shannon Airport, Ireland, before travelling on to Alexandria, Egypt, where he was to meet President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday.

Mr. Mubarak recently met Syrian President Hafez Al

Assad, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Christopher wants to "compare notes" on peace efforts.

He then visits Israel and Syria. Also, hoping to boost the Israel-Jordan declaration signed in Washington on July 25, Mr. Christopher will participate in ceremonies marking a new border crossing between Israel and Jordan. The crossing is between the Red Sea port towns of Eilat and Aqaba.

Whether Mr. Christopher meets Mr. Arafat on this swing through the region is unknown at this point, U.S. officials said.

Mr. Christopher's mission is to try to draw Syria further into the momentum for overall peace and cement progress made between Israel and Jordan and Israel and the Palestinians.

Mr. Christopher, speaking to radio reporters on Thursday, cited what he called new signs that President Assad is serious about peace with Israel, although he predicted no immediate breakthroughs.

The senior official who briefed reporters on the plane, however, said Israeli-Syrian negotiations are "going to be a long process... painstaking."

"There can be no deal if it is not done directly" between Israel and Syria, he said. But he stressed if Israel and Syria now resumed face-to-face talks suspended in February "you would not have an effort to close gaps."

President Clinton has said he hopes the two sides could achieve a breakthrough by the end of 1994. But the senior official said he could not predict when progress

might occur.

He believes Mr. Assad would reject a partial accord with Israel and opt for "details hammered out in advance."

Mr. Christopher also plans to ask Mr. Assad again to try to curb the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group that is suspected of involvement in recent bombings against Jewish targets.

Syria does not control Hezbollah (but they do) operate from places in Lebanon and Syria has demonstrated from time to time an ability to affect their behaviour," an official said.

Mr. Christopher said Thursday: "The main thing we're doing now is to facilitate the negotiation by carrying messages back and forth between the parties and helping the parties to probe for the grounds of agreement."

"The issues are tough and they're intertwined and interrelated. These are the issues of what constitutes a normalisation, what constitutes peace, how the withdrawal shall come about, what security measures are necessary. And I think the United States can play a role by helping the parties probe what the possibilities are and what the combinations of putting together the various elements of peace are."

"The parties at the present time are not prepared to meet directly at the level of heads of government and have asked me to play this role with them. So it's a facilitative role, but I think also the United States is bringing to it the experience we've had from prior peace negotiations of helping the party to break deadlocks, bring stalemates to an end and move the process forward."

The reporter, contacted by telephone from Tehran, said police patrols could be seen from time to time in the city but the state of siege imposed by police on Friday appeared to have been lifted.

"You can see police patrols come and go in the streets but the unrest seems to be over," one said.

Officials on Friday said four banks and 12 shops were ransacked and 20 people detained since the riots erupted on Wednesday over the city's demand to become a province. Ten of those arrested were later released.

"This time, they cannot cover up," Mr. Khoja told AFP Friday. But he added that in Thailand "everything is possible."

The 34-year-old wife and 14-year-old son of wealthy jeweler Santi Srithanakan were found murdered Monday in their luxury car on a highway some 100 kilometers north of Bangkok in Saraburi province.

Mr. Santi, who had dropped out of sight before the murders, failed to attend their funeral Thursday.

Arrested and interrogated in the Saudi gems case, he is considered a key state witness.

The protests began after the Iranian parliament voted narrowly against separating Qazvin from Zanjan province.

"Qazvin people I have met seemed to be happy with the news that their city is to merge with Tehran province," another journalist said.

The government on Thursday partially bowed to the demands of the people of Qazvin by separating it from Zanjan and joining it with Tehran province.

Until now Qazvin, 150 kilometers northwest of Tehran, has had to conduct its official business with Tehran through the city of Zanjan. Its funds from the central government also had to pass through Zanjan.

Joining Tehran provides better access to the capital, but falls short of becoming an independent province.

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Home News

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King receives cables of support

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received cables of support and appreciation for his latest steps directed at achieving peace in the region.

The King received a joint cable from the leaders and members of the Union of Welfare Societies and voluntary centres in Zarqa, expressing their total support for King Hussein's brave step towards securing peace in the region and his endeavours to build a modern Jordan.

The cable added that although the path of peace is difficult, it is the one which the people of Jordan have chosen with King Hussein, and it is the right one. The cable said that "with the wise leadership of His Majesty and his ability to handle critical issues, the region shall enjoy the security and stability it deserves."

King Hussein also received a similar cable from the Arab Youth Forum/Zarqa Branch, expressing support for his brave and sincere steps to lead Jordan and the Arab and Islamic nations to peace, security and prosperity in the region, which has suffered long enough."

Premier receives cables

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali also received



several cables of support and appreciation for King Hussein's moves to arrive at a just, durable and comprehensive peace.

The prime minister received a cable from the Student Council of the Physical Education Faculty at the University of Jordan expressing its full support for the recent steps aimed at regaining Jordanian national rights and reaching just and honourable peace in the Middle East.

The students said these

moves are "blessed and great efforts stemming from a sincere sense of belonging and loyalty to this homeland and its people."

The cable said that King Hussein chose Dr. Majali to lead this battle for peace because "His Majesty saw in you a loyal man that can overcome obstacles and face up to unwelcomed currents." It added that this courageous step brought Jordan back into the lead in the international arena and put an end to some attempts to push the Kingdom into the margins.

The prime minister also received several cables from foreign ministers supporting the Washington Declaration signed between King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and appreciating the step towards establishing just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The cables came from the foreign ministers of Canada, Brazil and Italy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma tours Mafrqa

MAFRQA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday toured Mafrqa Governorate and the northern Badia region. Citizens in the two areas who received the Princess voiced their allegiance to the Hashemite leadership and support for His Majesty King Hussein's moves aimed at achieving a just, lasting and honourable peace in the region and regaining Jordanian rights. The citizens expressed their readiness to offer sacrifices to maintain national unity and voiced joy over the return of the King after his successful mission on the road to peace. At Mafrqa School, Princess Basma opened a wool dyeing centre established by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development with the objectives of increasing the incomes of families benefiting from its services.

Transport delegation to head for Romania

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport Awad Tell Sunday will leave Jordan for Bucharest at the head of a delegation that is scheduled to hold talks with Romanian officials on means of facilitating the transit of Jordanian trucks through Romanian territory. The talks will also deal with activating an agreement signed between the Jordanian and Romanian governments in 1975 concerning the transport of passengers and goods between the two countries. The delegation includes representatives of the ministries of Finance, Interior and Transport in addition to a representative of the private sector.

Land department collects JD 5.5m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Land and Survey Department has collected JD 5,486,590 in revenues July, reflecting an increase of seven per cent over the previous month, according to Department Director General Ali Gharibeh. Mr. Gharibeh said last month's revenues witnessed a drop of 17 per cent compared to the same period last year when the department collected JD 6,588,884 in revenues.

CDD responds to 518 emergencies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) last week dealt with 518 incidents in various parts of the Kingdom, according to CDD Director of Public Relations Captain Abdul Raouf Ma'ayah. Of the total number, he said, the department responded to 61 fires, 452 other emergencies in which 13 people died.

Karak fortress renovation finished

KARAK (Petra) — The Antiquities Department has completed maintenance and renovation works at the Karak fortress, according to Karak antiquities inspector Hakeem Al Mahameed. Mr. Mahameed said the two-month renovation works included restoring facades, walls, towers and vaults. He said the church and the mill areas were also restored.

S. African T.V. airs Jordan democracy

PRETORIA (Petra) — South African Television screened a documentary on Jordan on the occasion of opening the Kingdom's embassy in Pretoria. The film featured the touristic attractions of Amman, Jerash, Wadi Rum, Petra, the Dead Sea and Aqaba, and the services and facilities offered to tourists.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUNERAL FIFTH FESTIVAL

★ Concert by Tafileh, Ma'an, and Azraq musical bands at 21:00.

FILM

★ Film entitled "Tron" at the American Center at 17:00.

DRAMAS

★ Monodrama: "Anthology of Martyrdom and Exile" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.

★ Melodrama for children in Arabic entitled "The Children's Garden" at Haya Cultural Centre at 17:00.

CONCERT

★ Concert by "The Family International Group" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of water paints by Sudanese artist Abdul Qadir Al Bakheet at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598).

★ Ceramic exhibition by artist Haidar Ra'ouf at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Jordan Industries Expo at the International Motor Exhibition (Tel. 653854).

★ Exhibition entitled "Environmental Technologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Center.

Armed Forces pursue interaction to advance development in all sectors

By Rima Cortbawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On its third day Saturday, the Second Jordanian Science Week, organised by the Jordanian Armed Forces in coordination with the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST) witnessed the presentation of several working papers including the experience of the armed forces abroad, the importance of Jordan's geographic position in the development of the country, and discussions on the policies and strategies of the National Document on Science and Technology.

Additional working papers on the extraction of uranium and its use, water treatment, electronic wars and communication systems were presented by experienced engineers from the armed forces.

The participation of the armed forces, for the first time in the science week, has so far been very constructive, especially considering their major contribution to the advancement of all the sectors of the Kingdom," said Talal Akashbeh, director of the development sector at the General Secretariate of the HCST.

As well as their continuous efforts to maintain safety and structural stability in all regions of the country, the armed forces help educational institutions, like the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), in pro-

viding training to students in any specialised field, in addition to the coordinated research to build a remote-controlled aircraft at the University.

Also the armed forces integrate with Mu'tah University on studies on the use of wind energy systems.

Brigadier General Abdul Wahab Kharabsheh, purchasing manager of the armed forces, said, "our capabilities and our share of educated and well-informed individuals are more than sufficient, even in comparison with the more technically-advanced countries, to enable us to proceed with carefully-planned steps towards development," which is one of the many themes of the science week.

Development, however, as the general said, is not a simple matter that can be accomplished in a limited period of time. It requires the well-timed and appropriately-studied efforts in all sectors, including education, agriculture and industry. The major steps to concentrate on are creating the "right balance" and allowing for the "parallel" development of all institutions, he said.

Third-world countries should not focus on encouraging the growth of certain superficial aspects, but should choose the modification of somewhat hidden factors that are essential for development, according to the general.

"We are trying to avoid going to court to save time, effort and money, and we are trying to reach a settlement with the Abequa family regarding the children's custody," the lawyers said.

Yacoub Far and Abdullah Khalil were retained by Nancy Feinberg, a U.S. attorney who is representing Meryem Gussal, the mother of the victim. Ms. Feinberg has asked Mr. Far and Mr. Khalil

Brig. Gen. Kharabsheh. Naturally, he added, education and integration of all institutions are at the top of the list of these factors.

"We should not talk about development in one field separately from the other fields. Each establishment must synchronise its efforts with the other establishments, whether private or governmental, because at the end, all will proceed forward together as one unit," the general maintained.

Preliminary steps towards achieving this are outlined in the science week objectives, foremost among which is the "bridging among all institutions in the Kingdom," which will result in "each getting

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Participants to the Second Jordanian Science Week, organised by the Armed Forces in cooperation with the Higher Council for Science and Technology Saturday hold their ninth session (Petra photo)

and natural resources."

The Second Jordanian Science Week was opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan last Wednesday.

Abequa child custody issue may be solved out of court-lawyers

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The child custody issue in the case of Mohammad Abequa, who is suspected of killing his wife Nidal in the U.S. then fleeing to Jordan with their two children, could be solved outside the courts, according to the Jordanian lawyers who are representing the victim's family.

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to represent Mrs. Gussal in the Jordanian court, because Jordanian law prohibits foreign lawyers from appearing in Jordanian courts.

If Mr. Abequa refuses, the attorney said, the other alternative is to resort to the Sharia Court.

"We hope that the Abequa family will be cooperative with us for the sake of the children," he said.

Mr. Far told reporters at a press conference that the only way to regain the children without resorting to court is by having Mr. Abequa sign a document that waives his rights of custody of the children and grants custody to their mother's family.

Mr. Abequa (46) faces charges for killing his wife and kidnapping their two children, Lisa (6) and Samir (3). Ms. Abequa's body was discovered two days later in her New Jersey apartment. Mr.

According to Mr. Khalil, their client, Ms. Gussal, will be granted custody of the children according to the Personal Status Law applied by the Sharia Court.

"We have been supplied with all the necessary documents and evidence and we are prepared to file all the documents to prove that Ms. Gussal is eligible," they said.

Wesley Egan, the U.S. ambassador in Amman said on Thursday that an administrative solution is possible to the children's custody issue.

He said he will provide the Jordanian authorities with the needed evidence against Mr. Abequa to support the charges of first degree murder and kidnapping.

Mr. Egan said he will press for his extradition despite the lack of an extradition treaty between the two countries.

A taste of the Arab Gulf in song

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One of the most renowned singers of the Arab Gulf is Ali Abdul Sattar, whose performance last week at the South Theatre caused a human traffic jam at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

Mr. Abdul Sattar, born in Qatar, began singing in 1973 in Cairo during his academic study at the College of Science of Cairo University. During his stay there, he recorded most of his artistic performances.

When he obtained his master's degree in educational information from New York University, the regent of Qatar exempted him from the requirement that he return to his country to fulfill his obligation in his field of study, thus freeing him to devote himself to his art.

Mr. Abdul Sattar was the first Arab artist to sing at the Cairo Opera House in 1989. The artist represented Qatar in many Arab and international festivals including in London, Paris, Damascus, Geneva, Madrid, as well as Cairo.

At a press conference last week in Amman, Mr. Abdul Sattar told journalists that throughout his career he con-

centrated mainly on the rich Arab culture to produce his works.

"The Arab culture is a must for the true artist. It is a rich well for us," said Mr. Abdul Sattar. "The Qatari government has recently established a centre for culture and cultural research from which any artist can borrow raw material to serve and enrich his ideas or his subject matter."

The vocalist's interest in education was the motivation behind his idea to simplify the learning of Arabic grammar through music.

"Cooperating with Qatari Educational TV, I composed one experimental episode about the 'Subject'. It was highly successful, but such a project of 120 episodes, needs financing" said Mr. Abdul Sattar.

At the Jerash Festival the artist sang to childhood, to his country, and to humanity. His songs almost reflected his style. He seemed to prefer fast tunes. In his approach, he tries to "talk to all generations, but keeping in mind particular restrictions," said the artist.

"I usually get in touch with young composers in order to walk alongside with today's listeners' tastes. I intend to pursue my work but this cannot be achieved without

cooperating with the new generation. Still at the same time, I do not neglect my own style," said Mr. Abdul Sattar.

He thanked the Jerash Festival organisers for giving him the opportunity to present not only the Qatari art, but

the Gulf art as well. "With the audience's encouragement at the South Theatre, I was able to introduce a complete picture of my old and new songs. In addition I presented a kind of survey of Gulf songs through my various rhythms and styles."

Qatar's Ali Abdul Sattar delights audiences at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

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Havana waterfront sealed off after worst anti-government riots

HAVANA (AFP) — Pro-government militia sealed off the Havana waterfront Saturday after thousands of Cubans clashed with police in unprecedented demonstrations against Fidel Castro's hold-out Communist regime.

The riots erupted Friday after several thousand people crowded into a slum area near the entrance to Havana Bay on news that Cubans trying to flee to the United States had hijacked a ferry Thursday for the third time in 10 days.

Neither officials nor the

press reported the number of casualties or arrests during the two hours of violence, during which witnesses said police opened fire on demonstrators who hurled rocks at them and several hundred protesters marched down a main street chanting "Freedom! Freedom!"

It was the first time the Cuban capital had witnessed such violence since the Castro regime took power 35 years ago.

Unlike past incidents, demonstrators attacked police when they tried to clear out

the waterfront area and smashed windows in central Havana and the old town instead of obeying orders to disperse, witnesses said.

Pro-Castro militiamen rushed to the scene to aid police and stayed to applaud Castro when he turned up later at the protest site.

Later Friday, Castro went on television and threatened to allow a mass exodus of Cubans to the United States. A similar move in 1980 led to the arrival of 120,000 Cubans in the United States in a few months.

He accused "anti-social elements" and "delinquents" — part of "the fifth column of American imperialism" — of staging the violence.

Washington, which has been trying to limit immigration from all parts of the world, expressed "deep concern" about the threat.

"The U.S. has stated repeatedly that we will not permit Fidel Castro to dictate our immigration policy or to create a replay of the Mariel boatlift," the State Department said in a statement, referring to the Cuban emigration wave of 1980.

"We... urge the Cuban

government to carefully consider all the implications of such incitement," the statement added.

Early Saturday, militiamen closed off Malecon Boulevard along the Havana waterfront, where the riots took place, and the American Interests Section, in the Vedado district.

Groups of pro-Castro workers from the so-called Blas Roca force, mostly armed with truncheons, patrolled the site of Friday's violence as well as other parts of the capital including the area around Havana University.

Malecon Boulevard, traditionally packed with people throughout the hot summer nights, was deserted.

In his televised address, Mr. Castro said one policeman was killed in Thursday's latest ferry hijacking in Havana Bay, while a second one was missing and presumed dead.

He added that the ferry was 12 miles off Havana and the hijackers were threatening to blow it up or kill children among the passengers taken hostage. No confirmation was immediately available.

The Cuban Coast Guard was apparently ordered not to intercept or another ferry seized by would-be emigrants Wednesday following the July 13 sinking near here of a tugboat carrying more than 60 would-be U.S. asylum seekers.

The vessel sank after crew



Cuban citizens gather around a young man who was wounded in the clashes with police along the waterfront in Havana (AFP photo)

manned by 15 armed individuals but returned to Havana under navy tow.

The U.S. Coast Guard picked up the 15 hijackers and took them to Florida, while all the passengers chose to return to Cuba rather than seek U.S. political asylum, the agency said.

On July 26, another Havana Bay ferry was hijacked by four gunmen, later picked up 36 kilometres (22 miles) north of Cuba by the U.S. Coast Guard, along with 15 passengers who requested political asylum.

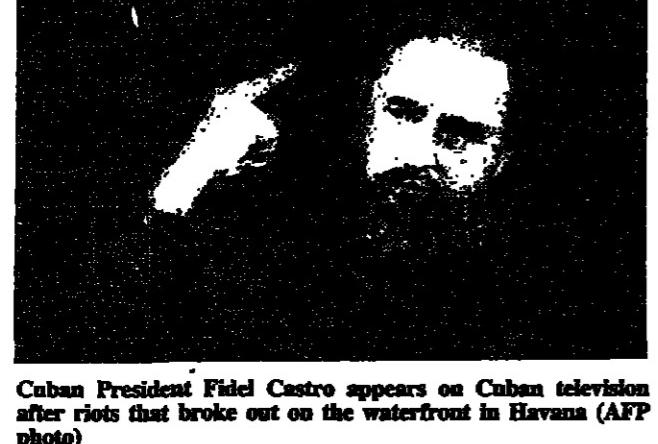
Social unrest has mushroomed since the col-

lapse of the Soviet Union, which heavily subsidised the Cuban economy, now staggering and beset by shortages. But in the past only isolated demonstrations broke out and were quickly repressed.

Until now, the most serious demonstrations were in July 1973, in the coastal village of Cojimar, near Havana.

Clashes broke out between local people and police there after the police shot and killed three would-be emigrants as they tried to board a boat that had come to fetch them for political asylum.

On July 26, another Havana



Cuban President Fidel Castro appears on Cuban television after riots broke out on the waterfront in Havana (AFP photo)

Hiroshima marks A-bomb anniversary

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, Japan's first Socialist leader in nearly half a century, pledged Saturday to help victims of the U.S. atom bomb attack that flattened Hiroshima exactly 49 years ago.

In a televised speech, Mr. Murayama told an estimated crowd of 50,000 during a memorial service at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park: "I am determined to make efforts to take more sufficient relief steps for them (bomb victims) in all sincerity."

He did not, however, elaborate on how aid would be provided to victims of the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

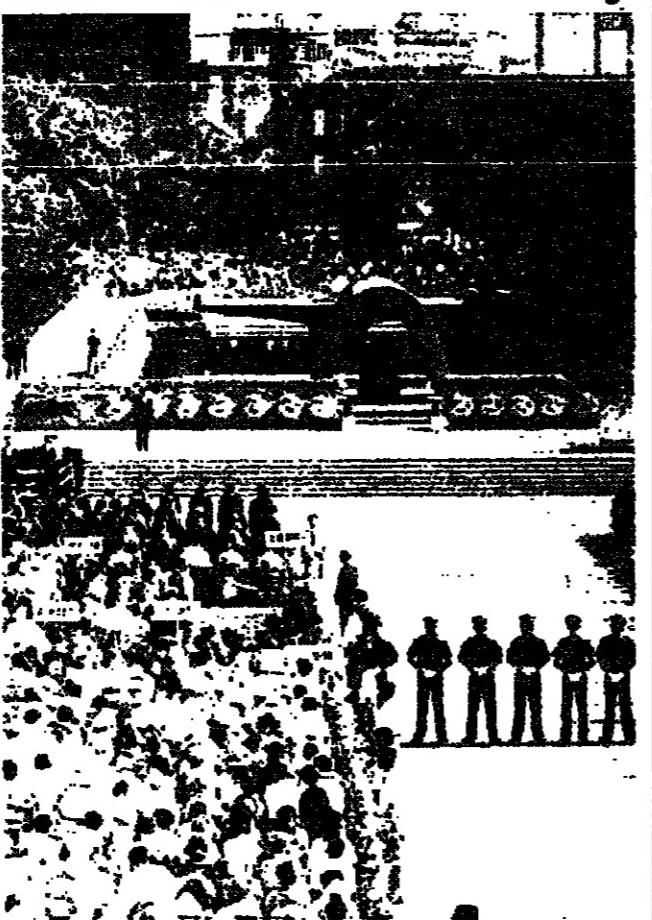
Both cities and anti-nuclear groups, including the Japan Congress Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs backed by the Socialists, want a financial relief law to cover people suffering after-effects of the bombings, as well as families of those killed.

Hiroshima was the target of the world's first atomic bombing near the end of World War II on Aug. 6, 1945. Three days later Nagasaki was hit in the second and last atomic bomb attack.

Earlier this week, Mr. Murayama and fellow Socialist Party members of Japan's coalition cabinet agreed to make efforts for special relief legislation.

But the Socialists' key coalition partners, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), opposes such legislation on the grounds it would discriminate against other war victims and their families, who have not been compensated for their sufferings and material losses.

During the memorial ser-



Policemen stand guard during the memorial ceremony at 8:15 a.m. for the 49th anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima at the Peace Memorial Park with the Atomic Bomb Dome in background. Hiroshima, the world's first city devastated by an atomic bomb, renewed an urgent call on the world to abolish all nuclear weapons (AFP photo)

vice, Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka urged the government to enact a law to provide aid to the A-bomb sufferers.

"Now is the time for Japan to initiate far-reaching relief policies based upon the spirit of national indemnification for all Hibakusha (A-bomb victims) at home and abroad."

He also made a new plea for the world to abolish nuclear weapons immediately.

"Hiroshima, along with Nagasaki, appeals to the leaders of all nuclear-armed countries to promptly announce the elimination of their nuclear weapons," he said.

During the memorial ser-

Court names new Whitewater prosecutor

WASHINGTON (R) — A federal court Friday replaced Robert Fiske as Whitewater prosecutor, a surprise twist in the investigation dogging the Clinton White House.

Kenneth Starr, a 43-year-old former U.S. solicitor general, was selected by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington to replace Mr. Fiske, who was named by Attorney General Janet Reno on Jan. 20.

The panel said it in its order that it was not questioning Mr. Fiske's integrity. But it said the intent of the independent prosecutor law is that a person unaffiliated with the current administration be appointed to investigate charges against that administration.

Mr. Reno, under pressure from congressional Republicans, had named Mr. Fiske as a special counsel because the Watergate-era law authorizing independent counsels had lapsed due to Republican objections. Congress later renewed the law and Mr. Reno asked the court to formally name Mr. Fiske as independent prosecutor.

But the three-judge panel said: "As Fiske was appointed by the incumbent administration, the court therefore deems it in the best interest of the appearance of independence contemplated by the act that a person not affiliated with the incumbent administration be appointed."

The court said Mr. Starr had authority to investigate any possible violations of federal criminal law relating to Presidents Bill Clinton or Hillary Rodham Clinton's relationships with the Whitewater Development Corp. or Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association, the financial institution owned by James McDougal.

Mr. McDougal was the Clinton's partner in Whitewater, a failed real estate venture in Arkansas.

The White House released a statement by counsel Lloyd Cutler that said the Democratic administration would cooperate fully: "The president consistently supported and signed into law the independent counsel statute. The administration will cooperate fully with Mr. Starr."

In a statement, Mr. Fiske promised he would "do everything I can to help him with a speedy and orderly transition."

Republicans hailed the appointment of Mr. Starr, a Republican who was solicitor general in President George Bush's administration, representing the government in arguments before the Supreme Court between 1989 and 1993.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole said he hoped it would lead to more complete Whitewater hearings by Congress, which is controlled by Democrats.

"His appointment to take

over this investigation will assure that there is no whitewash of Whitewater," said Texas Republican Senator Phil Gramm.

The Senate and the House of Representatives Banking Committees completed their first round of hearings on the investigation Friday. But Mr. Fiske's request those hearings had been limited in scope to avoid compromising his continuing investigation.

The move took not just Washington, but the legal community by surprise as lawyers attending the annual meeting of the American Bar Association (ABA) in New Orleans reacted to the news of Mr. Starr's appointment.

"I was a little surprised," said Robert Evans, who heads the ABA's Washington office. "I thought they would reappoint Mr. Fiske, but the rationale is legitimate and understandable. The whole idea behind the statute is there ought to be a truly independent person."

Mr. Fiske had completed the first phase of his investigation and was working out of offices in Arkansas and Washington.

He had already investigated contacts between Treasury Department and White House officials on the Whitewater affair and found no illegality, and had also concluded that White House Deputy Counsel Vincent Foster's 1993 death was a suicide unrelated to Whitewater.

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"His appointment to take

so long as American lives are not threatened, a U.S. invasion of Haiti appears increasingly unlikely because of deep rifts within the U.S. administration over sending in troops.

The Pentagon has shown little stomach for military intervention without a clearly defined mission, terms of engagement and a deadline for leaving for fear of being sucked into a civil war in the strife-torn Caribbean nation.

U.S. military leaders had been looking to a multinational force to launch the invasion, but so far none of the United States' allies have stepped forward to join such a mission.

Despite the Pentagon's reticence and lack of international military support, the White House has kept the military option on the table in hopes that threat of an invasion will persuade Haiti's military junta to step down.

The Washington Post reported that President Bill Clinton's top advisers concluded that, unless U.S. lives are threatened, an invasion should not come before mid-September to allow time to train invasion forces.

The New York Times reported that Defense Secretary William Perry vehemently opposed a suggestion by the number two person at the State Department, Strobe Talbott, to give an ultimatum to Haiti's strongman General Raoul Cedras.

"It would be prudent to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. I would never put a time frame on something like that," said Major Robert Jenks, a spokesman for the U.S. Marine Corps.

Others worry about U.S.

in Haiti, an impoverished nation of nearly six million people that is beset by intractable political, economic and social problems.

Georges Faure, director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies here, said if American troops storm Haiti they will likely be there for weeks, and more likely months, after the attack.

The Pentagon is unsure how people will react to an invasion and does not discount the possibility of skirmishes with the Haitian military, which could turn U.S. public opinion, he said.

Fauriel noted that U.S. troops could also find themselves embroiled in violent clashes between opponents and supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was ousted by the military in September 1991.

The Pentagon is also worried that a lengthy U.S. occupation would in time stir up resentment among Haitians.

"The last time the U.S. intervened in Haiti, it took 19 years (1915-1934) to extricate all American troops," said Neil Livingstone, a national security expert, in the magazine Navy League "Sea Power."

"The only thing we believe that we have to negotiate is the modalities for the military's departure," State Department spokesman David Johnson said.

He indicated that the United States was pleased Latin American countries including Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela had apparently abandoned plans to send a mission to Port-au-Prince to seek negotiations with army chief General Raoul Cedras in a bid to stave off a U.S.-led invasion.

Amarnath is a remote cave near Pahalgam, southeast of Srinagar, the summer capital of the northern Jammu and Kashmir state, since a month-long standoff last October with Muslim militants inside the shrine.

Kashmiri leaders had demanded the removal of the bunkers, which had been erected last year to enable troops to flush out the militants.

"We call upon Kashmiris to celebrate this triumph by lighting lamps for two consecutive nights," he said.

Kashmiri top bureaucrat, Mahmoodur Rahman, and Police Chief Monohar Nath Sabbarwal looked on as Hurriyat leaders entered the shrine and brought out a sacred relic, believed to be a hair from Prophet Muhammad's beard, for public display.

Police and hospital sources have reported more than 17,000 deaths in the revolt, which is widely supported in largely Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state.

Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 over Kashmir.

Mr. Ghani said the Hurriyat would try to persuade the militants to call off their threat.

"We believe in religious tolerance, we are not against any religion," he told the meeting at Hazratbal.

Last year's siege, which ended peacefully with the militants' surrender in return for their eventual release, was an emotional high point in the Kashmiri rebellion against Indian rule that erupted in January 1990.

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Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 over Kashmir.

Abiola's leaders

Kashmiris claim victory as Indian forces quit posts

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian forces packed up their bunkers around Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine Saturday, triggering rare celebrations and claims of a major victory by separatist leaders fighting New Delhi's rule.

Indian troops and the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) had surrounded the lakeside Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, summer capital of the northern Jammu and Kashmir state, since a month-long standoff last October with Muslim militants inside the shrine.

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When Democratic National Committee member Don Schweitzer said in June the party leadership group would understand if candidates ran away from Mr. Clinton, he was rebuked by the White House and by party Chairman David Wilhelm.

Mr. Wilhelm said Demo-

crats needed to campaign proudly on Mr. Clinton's record.

"The president is particularly unpopular in the south. A June survey of southern House Democrats found that few wanted the president to visit their districts.

Many Democrats are already trying to distance themselves from Mr. Clinton, whose popularity rating in recent polls has dropped sharply despite that nation's strengthening economy and now hover in the mid-40 per cent range.

"I'm running on my record and my relationship with voters in my district," said Representative Tom Barlow, a Kentucky Democrat. "People put Clinton apart from their local representative and their senator."

But Mr. Barlow acknowledged that Mr. Clinton was unpopular in his traditionalist, largely rural state because of his attempt to open the U.S. military to homosexuals, his support of tobacco tax hikes and his advocacy of gun control.

Republicans are eager to make the election a referendum on Mr. Clinton. Mr. Barlow's opponent, Ed White, said: "One of the main

issues in this campaign is the Clinton presidency."

The president is particularly unpopular in the south. A June survey of southern House Democrats found that few wanted the president to visit their districts.

"Congressional races are won and lost on local issues," one Democratic Party official said.

He noted that even former

World News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 1994 5

Report: N. Korea opposed to outside reprocessing

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea supports the proposed conversion of its nuclear reactors to safer types, but its refusal to ship spent fuel rods out of the country for safe reprocessing, a South Korean news report said Saturday.

North Korean delegates told their U.S. counterparts during talks Friday in Geneva that the spent fuel should be reprocessed at its Yongbyon nuclear complex soon, the Yonhap News Agency quoted diplomatic sources in Seoul as saying.

Vital nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington resumed Friday after a month-long delay caused by the July 8 death of North Korean ruler Kim Il-Sung.

The negotiations are being closely watched to see if North Korea's leadership change will affect its policy.

Before his death, Mr. Kim had promised to freeze his country's nuclear programme in return for diplomatic recognition and other benefits, including economic aid.

In Geneva, chief U.S. negotiator Robert Gallucci said that at Friday's intensive first session the two sides had failed to reach agreement on the fate of some 8,000 spent fuel rods fast corroding in a cooling pond.

But Yonhap said North Korea responded "favourably" to the proposed use of U.S. technology to chemically treat the spent fuel for prolonged storage.

Concern has grown over

the fate of the spent fuel rods since early June, when their removal from the controversial five-megawatt reactor spurred international calls for sanctions against Pyongyang.

U.S. and South Korean officials have been adamant that North Korea be blocked from reprocessing the rods, which could leave North Korea with enough plutonium to produce up to five nuclear bombs.

The Geneva talks had been scheduled to continue Saturday, but the two sides agreed to adjourn until Monday and consult their governments.

Yonhap said North Korean delegates rejected a U.S. proposal that the spent fuel be shipped to a third country. Pyongyang has insisted reprocessing should begin this month for safety reasons.

Pyongyang also indicated it could introduce Russian technology to replacing its graphite-moderated reactors with safer light-water models, the agency said.

Light-water reactors are considered less dangerous than the old-fashioned graphite models as they produce less plutonium.

Experts here contend that the replacement of North Korean reactors would take up to 10 years and cost nearly \$2 billion.

South Korea and the United States have offered to provide financial assistance to modernise the North's reactors facilities in exchange for the nuclear freeze.

S. Korean police detain more students in crackdown

SEOUL — Police detained a dozen students at Pusan University Saturday in the latest in a series of anti-leftist crackdowns, and seized firebomb-making equipment.

Police in the southern city of Pusan said the students were being held for questioning about whether they were involved in pro-North Korean activities.

One officer said police seized hundreds of pieces of equipment for making firebombs to be used at demonstrations. No violence was reported during the riot police raid.

The Yonhap News Agency said hundreds of Pusan students later staged a rally at the campus to protest against the police action, demanding the students be released and the government stop suppressing student movements.

Police have raided several campuses in Seoul and major provincial cities and arrested the charge.

Abiola still held; union leaders seek his views

"We are not going to call off our strike. In fact, we will intensify the action," Bola Owoolutimi, PENGASSAN's president told Reuters Saturday. "This court thing is a ruse."

Their strike has brought Nigeria to its knees by cutting fuel supplies and disrupting export of crude oil, Nigeria's main source of foreign exchange earnings.

Friday's court session took Mr. Abiola's associates by surprise. His trial had originally been adjourned to Aug. 16 for a ruling on whether the Abuja court had jurisdiction to hear the case.

Reporters present in court said the application for bail was not brought by Mr. Abiola's regular lawyer Godwin Ajayi and was not opposed by the prosecutor.

They said it was clear from the proceedings that the court was hurriedly convened to free Mr. Abiola after the series of meetings between NLC officials and government representatives.

NLC itself called off its short-lived general strike to facilitate negotiations with the government.

Mr. Oshiomole told Reuters the charges against Mr. Abiola would be dropped at the next court sitting scheduled for Aug. 16.

He said NLC had negotiated Mr. Abiola's unconditional release. Owoolutimi said anything short of an outright return to democracy would not be acceptable to the oil unions.

"We see Abiola as the symbol of democracy and remain solidly behind him. With the bail conditions the government is silencing him and it is a grave mistake for them to think they can solve the current crisis that way," he said.

Bosnian Serbs hand back guns under NATO air strike threat

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. officers said Saturday Bosnian Serbs had bowed to the threat of more NATO air attacks and returned at least four heavy weapons including a tank they had seized from the United Nations in Sarajevo.

NATO aircraft struck the Serbs Friday and the U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, told them he would order more air strikes if the weapons were not handed over by Saturday.

The Serbs handed back a T-55 tank, two armoured personnel carriers and a Praga anti-aircraft gun snatched from the UN collection point in Sarajevo late Friday night, U.N. military spokesman Major Tom Annink said.

A Bosnian Serb liaison officer had told the U.N. that a fifth weapon grabbed from the compound, an anti-aircraft gun, would be turned over Saturday.

General Shalashvili said during a visit to the U.S. Army's Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany that the impact of the air attack had been

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Naivety or short sight?

THE FLARE-UP in South Lebanon over the weekend as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began a fresh shuttle of the Middle East in pursuit of peace should be a reminder of the state of affairs in the region. There cannot be any denial of the reality that it is the very absence of any progress in the Syrian-Israeli track of peace negotiations, and, by extension, the Lebanese-Israeli track of negotiations, that is behind the violence that we witness in South Lebanon. It is inconceivable too that the Israelis, particularly those living near the borders with Lebanon, are happy with the status quo when the threat of violence and Katyusha attacks is ever present.

So what do we have here? Who is to be blamed for the escalation in tension and eruption of violence in South Lebanon that threatens to engage Mr. Christopher in efforts to defuse the situation rather than dedicating himself to advancing the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations during his latest shuttle?

No doubt, the ball falls back in the Israeli court. Instead of accepting the Lebanese government's offer to undertake immediate security measures to ensure stability along the border with Israel if the Jewish state withdrew from the so-called "security zone," Israeli leaders are engaging Beirut in a media exercise over the presence of Syrian and Iranian forces in Lebanon and the continued resistance put up by Lebanese and Palestinian fighters there.

It is no secret that there cannot be any advance in the Lebanese-Israeli track of talks unless there is similar movement in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. But, as efforts continue in a bid to break the Syrian-Israeli logjam, little attention appears to be given to any measures to defuse the tension in South Lebanon.

It should be more than clear to Israel by now that unless it shows concrete signs of withdrawing from the "security zone," the resistance attacks would continue regardless of what is happening in the peace negotiations. The Lebanese have seen enough violence to last them a lifetime, and it is naive to think that they would sit back and await a peace settlement to materialise at the convenience of Israel on its own terms as it is seeking today.

It is not enough that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin affirmed in public that his country does not covet "a single inch" of Lebanese territory or a "single cubic metre" of Lebanese water; those claims should be followed up with realistic, visible signs of Israel's intentions to evacuate its neighbour's territory.

The Israelis appear not to have taken seriously a series of recent statements by Lebanese President Elias Hrawi on Lebanon's vision of security arrangements. Unlike as it may be, the Israelis seem not to have understood that what President Hrawi was suggesting was a bilateral arrangement that could be conducive to bringing about a peace settlement between Lebanon and Israel as well as Syria and Israel are ready to enter a similar arrangement. In the meantime, Mr. Hrawi is offering to undertake the responsibility of protecting the border region.

Wasn't the voice loud enough for the Israelis? Or are they still politically short-sighted not to realise that President Hrawi's offer could be a lifesaver that could avert the kind of tension and violence gripping South Lebanon today when the need of the day is a very concerted effort to break the deadlock in the negotiations?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AN EDITORIAL in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday commended the high level of political and pan-Arab awareness of the Jordanian people. The newspaper said in its editorial that this was clearly manifested in the freedom of expression that prevailed before and after the Washington Declaration at all political, cultural and social levels. This was especially reflected in moves by the legislative authority and its symbols that represent the people, who expressed allegiance to the King, said the statement. In this framework, it added, it is natural that people would differ, including some of the deputies, over some details related to the political settlement between Jordan and Israel. But one thing "for sure," said the newspaper, is that every body agrees on the need to protect the Jordanian society and the state institutions against challenges, including the challenge of peace. And this natural in our view because a lasting, just and comprehensive peace, which Jordan has been seeking and which was defined by His Majesty King Hussein in the Washington Declaration and in his address before the American Congress, is still part of the declaration of principles and the common agenda, the paper added. Thus it was only natural that three quarters of the Lower House of Parliament members would view the Washington Declaration as a lucky beginning for Jordan on the way to regaining its rights in its land, water and holy places, said the paper. The paper concluded by saying that the full legislative authority is backing the King in his vision of peace, but some forms of opposition to the peace process are emanating from suspicions in the real Israeli intentions towards the peace process.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Saturday criticised Arab governments for not attending the annual meetings of the U.N. Human Rights Committee. Lawyer Hani Al Dahleh, who is also a human rights activist, said most of the Arab countries abstain from the annual conference of the committee and if they were to attend, they delegate a government envoy to deliver an address glorifying his government and commanding its keenness to preserve human rights. The envoy goes back home after delivering their addresses at the committee's meeting as if nothing had happened, said Mr. Dahleh.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Lloyds Register must go away

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE INSPECTION by the American fleet in the northern part of the Red Sea of all merchandise imported to Jordan via Aqaba will be replaced as of Aug. 25 by an easier sort of inspection, to be conducted by an independent auditor, Lloyds Register, after arrival of vessels to the port and upon discharging the goods.

This is definitely a positive step which will save time, effort and money, and will remove an incentive for major shipping lines to skip Aqaba from their regular schedule to avoid harassment and delay imposed by the American fleet, ostensibly to prevent an alleged violation by Jordan to the trade sanctions against Iraq imposed since August 1990.

This good step is no more good enough, taking into account the improvement in Jordanian-American relations, the acceleration which took place in the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations and the achievements realised so far under the auspices of the United States of America, not only because the inspection of goods in Aqaba by Lloyds Register will cost some \$2 million a month, to be borne by the importers and added to the cost of imported goods, but also because the operation in itself is humiliating to the government and people of Jordan.

The only convincing explanation of the American insistence on the blockade against Aqaba was that the American administration does not trust the Jordanian government.

But, what took place in the White House Rose Garden on July 25, and in the chamber of Congress the following day, should be more than enough to change this attitude, and remove any mistrust that prevailed in the past. It is not reasonable nor acceptable to expect the government of Jordan to carry on with the peace process, while it is still distrusted and singled out from all governments in the region to be subjected to harsh measures.

In addition, we cannot help believing that the blockade imposed on the Jordanian port of Aqaba is not meant against Iraq. It is common knowledge that a substantial part of Jordanian imports come through Lebanese, Syrian and Turkish ports. Those who want to smuggle goods to Iraq—if any—do not have to import those goods through Aqaba. All that they need is to import the goods via Latakia in Syria to avoid American inspection and may save extra cost in the process.

Since the blockade is simply a means of political pressure on Jordan to achieve political ends and to oblige Jordan to behave politically in a certain desired manner, it is high time to put an end to this uncalled-for pressure, and to open a new and clean chapter in the American-Jordanian relations, and to restore mutual confidence. This means that the services of Lloyds Register must be terminated before they start.

The Americans are definitely aware that the Iraqi borders are wide-open with Syria, Turkey and Iran, without any sort of inspection. The problem of Iraq is that it does not have money any more to pay for its imports, not that it has any difficulty in buying things if it can pay for them.

More important is the fact the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples are part of one Arab nation. It is not conceivable nor morally and nationally acceptable to be asked to normalise our economic relations with Israel before we are able to normalise our economic relations with Iraq. The sanctions are not only hurting the weaker groups of the Iraqi population, they are hurting the Jordanian economy as well. Iraq used to buy 25 per cent of all Jordanian exports. Jordan cannot prosper economically as long as the sanctions are in place. The New York Times has observed in a recent editorial: Sanctions against Iraq should not continue for ever.

Jordan met the American demands, went extra miles in its peace process with Israel, and took huge risks. It is high time to find some understanding and appreciation of its difficulties. The United Nations has nothing to do with the whole episode. It is America that created the problem and is now able to solve it to the satisfaction of the Jordanian people, if the friendship and goodwill of the Jordanians are sought.



Palestinian rule opens insider-outsider rift

By Wafa Amr
Reuter

GAZA—One month after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's return to Gaza, the Israelis are gone but there's still a rift between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials who arrived with him and local Palestinians they're supposed to lead.

Under a peace deal with the PLO, Israel handed the Gaza Strip and Jericho over to Palestinian police in May. On July 1, Mr. Arafat ended 27 years of exile and entered the self-ruled Gaza Strip to run its daily affairs.

"The geographic distance between insiders and outsiders has been reduced. Instead of Tunis, the PLO leadership is in Gaza. But the political distance remains wide," says political scientist Mahdi Abdul Hadi.

Mr. Arafat has so far managed to maintain law and order.

Many potential troublemakers in his Fatah movement have been put to work in his security forces. His rival, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has cooperated with the Palestinian author-

ity in charge of self-rule.

The PLO has also brought changes to Gaza's conservative society. Women have abandoned traditional headscarves and people spend evenings on the beaches, a pleasure denied them under Israeli occupation.

Yet embodia over Mr. Arafat's homecoming has given way to demands for changes on the ground.

For the first time, PLO leaders are in direct daily contact with the Palestinian people they directed from abroad.

After years of painful exile, some PLO officials feel estranged in their own homeland.

Gaza streets still are filled with dirt and garbage. Unemployment remains high. Donor states have yet to make good on pledges and few new buildings have gone up. Mr. Arafat's aides say a lack of cash will hamper development.

"We have seen very little progress or improvement in living conditions since Abu Ammar's arrival," political activist Sami Abu Samhadaneh said, referring to Mr. Arafat by his guerrilla nickname.

"We have some sort of

social freedoms, but we don't feel democracy in the real sense," he said.

Many who stayed in Gaza under the occupation feel sidelined by the newcomers who run the Palestinian authority. They blame the returned exiles for failing to improve their lives after 27 years of occupation.

Through the many years of the uprising, insiders took the lead in shaping policy. This changed after the Madrid peace conference in 1991. The PLO regained and held control, with Mr. Arafat the main decision-maker.

Some expect the insiders to rebel at some stage if the authority goes on assigning them secondary roles.

Others lament the absence of an assertive local leadership.

Activists of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction living in Gaza and Jericho were largely disappointed to find their leader so domineering when he arrived.

"We are now simply a group of employees working for PLO officials and seeking Arafat's approval," one said.

"Many young Gazans think of immigrating.

A Fatah fugitive said deteriorating living conditions had forced him to consider living abroad "to find peace of mind and live like normal human beings."

In some ways tensions were to be expected. Like most Palestinians under occupation, Gazans are accustomed to rejecting authority.

"We never had to stand in line to see officials. We never accepted being pushed around by policemen. We never felt the fear of being arrested or reprimanded for criticising the authority. Now we feel we are like any other Arab regime," one Palestinian said.

There are five security and intelligence departments, some of which face charges of human rights violations of a sort that were levelled against Israel in the past.

Political scientist Ziad Abu Amr said he was not sure the leadership was aware of the dangers and dynamics of the conflicting interests of insiders and outsiders.

"In the absence of integrative factors, the relationship will become antagonistic," he said.

EU strives to show support for Mandela

By Peter Blackburn
Reuters

BRUSSELS—The European Union (EU), aware of a need to turn words quickly into action, is seeking to help Nelson Mandela's South African government of national unity while it considers a long-term trade aid accord.

After South Africa's first all-race elections in April, the EU promised to use every means to support the country's efforts to create a democratic and racially integrated society.

This week it was trying to finalise a list of non-sensitive South African industrial products eligible to benefit under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for developing countries.

A visit to South Africa in October by the EU's external trade commissioner Sir Leon Brittan is expected to speed up an interim aid package setting the framework for long term trade and cooperation.

"The EU has got to act now as it's still a long way off fixing the shape of long term relations," said an EU

diplomat. As South Africa's main trading partner, taking 40 per cent of its exports, as well as a major investor and aid donor, the EU potentially has a key role to play.

South Africa's Deputy President F.W. de Klerk has reminded Europe of the continuing need for support after the transition to a multi-racial democracy.

"We need to underpin that democracy by achieving sustainable and relatively high growth rate," he said during an investment promotion visit to Germany earlier this month.

The big question about future EU-South Africa relations is whether Pretoria will opt to join the Lome Convention, an aid and trade pact linking 70 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) developing countries with the EU, or negotiate a special bilateral deal.

Lome offers the best prospects of access to the huge EU market but the drawback is that membership negotiations could be slow and complicated, EU officials said.

"It's come out of the poli-

tical wilderness... it's a major motor for economic growth in southern Africa," said a spokesman for the European Commission.

He argued that the EU was moving quickly to support South Africa, saying it was granting immediate GSP benefits, even though a revised scheme is due to come into force in January 1995.

"The principle of how South Africa fits into the new scheme has been established," said an EU diplomat.

But others said the list of South African items had been whittled down at French insistence, with processed farm products, such as fruit juices, among the major casualties.

In May, the EU lifted all remaining sanctions, including a ban on arms trading and military cooperation, following the ending of a mandatory 17-year-old United Nations arms embargo.

The EU is also continuing an aid programme, amounting to £122 million in 1994, covering education, training, health and rural development.

He insisted everything was paid for and produced

Iranian opponents wait in Iraq to topple mullahs

By Leon Barkho

BAGHDAD — Massoud Rajavi wants to topple Iran's mullahs but in the meantime he avoids wearing a necktie so he does not run afoul of their decree that ties are un-Islamic.

Women, who make up 35 per cent of the fighting force of his army, wear headscarves and avoid shaking hands with men as if afraid of "what the mullahs would say."

Mr. Rajavi, 45-year-old leader of the National Liberation Army (NLA) of the Mujahideen Khalq Iranian opposition movement, is a man whose movements are in many ways constrained.

His army has tanks, guns and other armaments, but he buys them from Iraq, where he has been based since 1986. He admits he would not mount an invasion without consulting his hosts.

He knows, too, his close links with Iraq have done nothing to endear him to the West.

"Nobody would like to have his army outside his country," Mr. Rajavi said, aware that his Iraqi connections are partly to blame for lack of Western support.

"Do you have a better place for us other than Iraq, another place to establish an army?"

In a recent meeting with journalists at his fortress-like compound in Baghdad, Mr. Rajavi refused to spell out terms of his stay in Iraq.

He produced documents in Arabic saying Baghdad would respect the independence of his group and its freedom of action and complete military and ideological and political independence.

But he added that if he ever asked his army to march on Tehran "a respectful way" would be to "inform the host."

How soon that might be anybody's guess, but right now it does not look imminent.

He told the journalists that a "minefield of risks" stood between him and his dream of toppling Tehran's clerics.

A rapprochement between Tehran and Baghdad like one in 1975 may prompt Iraq to curb his activities, although he believes differences between the diehard foes are too great to resolve.

Iraq and Iran, which fought a ruinous war between 1980-1988, have not signed a peace treaty and bilateral ties are at their lowest ebb.

Mr. Rajavi's NLA staged large-scale, live-fire military exercises recently on the Iraq-Iran border. Hundreds of tanks, armoured vehicles and heavy artillery as well as helicopter gunships took part, begging the question where they came from.

"Armoured vehicles were bought from Iraq, the same with artillery and tank carriers... helicopter gunships took part, begging the question where they came from."

Mr. Rajavi said he does not support Khomeini's fatwa (religious decree

News

Arafat rivals reject appointed council

GAZA CITY (AP) — In a blunt challenge to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, hundreds of opponents to the peace accord held a sit-in Saturday demanding the appointed city council be ousted and municipal elections held.

About 700 supporters of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement, together with Marxist organisations, descended on the city hall, waving banners and blocking roads.

Armed Palestinian police surrounded the crowd, but avoided confrontation.

Hamas is irate that only Arafat loyalists were given seats on the new council and organised the rally to demand open elections and a free press.

"This municipality does not represent the city of Gaza, it does not represent us," said Dr. Ibrahim Yazuri, a Hamas leader.

Dr. Yazuri said the appointment of only Mr. Arafat's men violated an agreement that the council would include representatives of all factions.

Inside, Gaza's mayor, Aoun Shawa, rejected the protest, saying all factions were welcomed to join the council, which, he said, was only temporary. Hamas stayed out because they were not given the right to vote on council members, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinians seek refinery for self-rule

DUBAI (R) — Palestinian investors have approached financial institutions and businessmen in the Gulf to invest in a refinery project for Palestinian self-rule areas, the Qatari News Agency reported on Saturday. It said the Qatari newspaper Al Ashar quoted a Palestinian source as saying a refinery, with a capacity of 15,000 barrels per day (bpd), was needed because a Jordanian refinery which would supply the autonomous areas could not meet demand. The refinery would be supplied by crude oil from Arab and Islamic oil-producing countries, the newspaper said. The report gave no indication whether the Palestinian requested had received a response from potential investors, which the newspaper said included Palestinian businessmen in the Gulf.

Zimbabwe denies supplying arms to SPLA

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe denied on Friday allegations that it was supplying arms to rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) led by John Garang. A defector from the rival SPLA United faction John, Kulang, was quoted as saying on Thursday that Zimbabwe and Uganda supplied weapons to Col. Garang's mainstream SPLA. "The allegations are not true. It is absolutely not true that we have been sending arms to SPLA. I want to deny the allegations vigorously and emphatically," said Foreign Affairs Minister Nathan Shamuyarira. He told the local state-owned domestic news agency Ziana that Zimbabwe was engaged only in diplomatic efforts to end Sudan's 27-year civil war.

Observers on way out of Hebron

HEBON (AP) — The international observer force in Hebron announced Friday that its mission would end on Monday at the end of its three-month mandate. "On August 8th the mission will end in the city of Hebron. The observers from Norway, Italy and Denmark will leave the area," said spokesman Bjorn Sorensen of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH). "TIPH believes to nearly have fulfilled its mission in Hebron, only a few points are still unsolved," said Mr. Sorensen, pointing to efforts to reopen the Ibrahim Mosque and a full reopening of the town's vegetable market. "TIPH has... been able to lower the level of tension in the city," the spokesman said. "Life in Hebron is on the move back to normal." The 166 observers were deployed in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town after the massacre of more than 30 worshippers in the Ibrahim Mosque by a Jewish settler on Feb. 25.

Mild tremor wakes residents in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A mild tremor woke thousands of residents in Lebanon's Christian heartland north and east of Beirut at daybreak Saturday. Police said no damage or casualties were reported. The seismological centre in Bhamaneh in the central mountain ridge northeast of Beirut said the epicentre of the second quake was in western Syria, about 200 kilometres east of Beirut. It had a preliminary measured magnitude of 3.8. Such a tremor can cause moderate damage.

PLO staff in Athens strike for pay

ATHENS (R) — About 20 members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Athens are on strike because they have not been paid for months, a spokesman for the group said on Saturday. "We have been on strike since July 27... we have not received our salaries for several months," he said. In a statement, the staff said their survival was at stake. "We assure our people that our action is nothing but a cry of despair," the statement said.

Sudan aid airdrops to begin next week

KHARTOUM (AP) — Airdrops of food aid for starving civilians in isolated areas of south Sudan are to begin next week, a top government aid official said Saturday. Relief commissioner Ahmad Mohammad Al Agbashi said the aid, consisting of cereals, would be dropped in needy areas where deliveries cannot be made by other means. Some 400 tonnes of aid supplies destined for the region had already been flown from Entebbe in Uganda to south Sudan's main town of Juba, Mr. Agbashi told the Al Engaz Al Watani daily. The operation, sponsored by the World Food Programme, would be carried out at the rate of two flights a day. He added that a relief boat carrying 1,700 tonnes of grain had arrived in the Funjak and Tonga districts of south Sudan's Upper Nile state.



French authorities after the murders of five Frenchmen in Algiers. At left is Djaffar Al Houari, chairman of the Algerian Fraternity in France (AFP photo)

S. Africa family shot, victims of crime wave

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A family of five have been shot dead by gunmen in a Johannesburg township, among the latest victims of rampart violence in South Africa where police and Nelson Mandela's government have declared war on crime.

Two gunmen, one armed with an AK-47 assault rifle, the other a handgun, kicked down the door to Floyd Mabaso's Watville home Friday night before spraying it with bullets, killing Mabaso, 26, his wife Agnes, 21, their son Toby, aged one, daughter Ngozile, three, and grandmother Emily Mabaso, 65.

Police inured to years of endemic political violence during the apartheid era, on Saturday reacted with shock and outrage to the "senseless" killings, which took place less than 100 days after South Africa's first all-race elections.

Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) National Congress in a

led government and regional administration have declared war on violent crime and attacks on police which they fear will affect ambitious plans to create jobs and restore essential services and social order in dirt-poor townships, particularly those east of Johannesburg.

"We call upon the community to assist us in apprehending the killers who destroyed a family in cold blood," said a visibly shaken Captain Govindasamy Marimuthu.

While police were searching for the Mabaso family's killers east of Johannesburg, about 2,000 officers paraded through sprawling Soweto, to the west of the city, in an attempt to win community support for the anti-crime campaign.

More than 150 police officers have been killed since the year began, all but a handful of the murders unsolved.

Police spokesman Colonel Herman Oosthuizen said in a

statement the police parade was aimed at winning the support of Soweto residents and appealed to local people to help track down illegal firearms and criminals.

Two policemen were murdered in the township, South Africa's biggest, last weekend. Their killer, or killers, are still at large.

At the other end of the country, police said an off-duty officer was shot dead in Durban's La Montville township early on Saturday after being approached by an armed group of men.

"He was then shot in the head, chest and stomach. He died at the scene," Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton Ngidi told Reuters.

Police acknowledge they face an uphill battle in restoring their credibility in black communities which historically regarded them as enforcers of apartheid.

On Thursday, Safety and Security Minister Sydney

Oufamadi said the gloves were off in the war against crime. "We will not permit criminal elements to become unseen dictators," Mr. Mufamadi told Reuters after meeting families of murdered police.

Political analysts and violence monitors said while political violence had declined since Mr. Mandela's national unity government took office in May, crime and the killing of police officers had increased — particularly in the industrial heartland around Johannesburg.

They say robberies, muggings, rapes, car hijackings, child abuse, abduction of babies and the killing of police officers were at record highs.

One senior ANC official has suggested sealing South Africa's borders with Mozambique and Swaziland to try to stem the flood of smuggled firearms, particularly AK-47s.

In its communiqué, the ANC accused France of having "declared war on the FIS and the Muslim Algerian people."

It said, "France must renounce its aggressive policy and immediately liberate our brothers, or take responsibility for what the Mujahedeen of the Islamic Salvation Army will make them suffer."

The group accused France, in detaining the 17, of having been "incited by the junta" — an apparent reference to the military-backed leadership in Algiers.

The Paris foreign ministry said France had asked Britain, Germany and the United States through diplomatic channels to silence exiled FIS leaders on their territory.

Bonn and London immediately denied Minister Pasqua's accusation that they were soft on militants and said they had no evidence that crimes had been committed or prepared on their soil.

Among the militants confined in Folembay, surrounded by barbed wire fences and armed gendarmes

Algerian group threatens France

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) threatened Saturday to exact reprisals inside France if 17 suspected Algerian extremists detained by French authorities were not immediately released.

In a statement received here by AFP, the AIS called for "the immediate liberation" of the 17 Islamic fundamentalists held at a barracks in France, threatening unspecified reprisals inside France if the demand was not met.

The organisation is the military wing of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the group spearheading an insurrection against Algeria's military-backed secular government.

Sixteen people were rounded up in France Thursday and Friday after suspected fundamentalists shot and killed five French citizens on the outskirts of Algiers Thursday in an attack claimed by another organisation, the Armed Islamic Group.

The 16 were detained at a barracks in Folembay, northern France.

The 17th, Omar Saker, is an imam or religious leader, detained Monday when police discovered fliers in the boot of his car calling for an armed struggle in France.

French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said Friday the initial 16 had been served with expulsion orders. It was not known if the same applied to Mr. Saker.

The five Frenchmen — two consular officials and three gendarmes — were among more than 50 foreigners killed in Algeria by Muslim fundamentalists in their two-and-a-half-year low-level war which has left some 2,000 people dead on both sides of the conflict.

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Among the militants confined in Folembay, surrounded by barbed wire fences and armed gendarmes

Libya blames U.S. for sanctions renewal

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya blamed the United Nations on Saturday for the "unjust decision" by the U.N. Security Council to uphold sanctions on Tripoli, the official news agency JANA said.

The Security Council decided Friday to maintain sanctions because Libya had not met Western demands that it hand over two suspects in the 1988 Pan Am airliner bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland.

JANA said the decision was imposed on the Security Council by the United States, France and Britain, and it condemned "western arrogance, notably from the United States."

It said Libya had been "flexible and cooperative" in the Lockerbie bombing dispute but was being punished for its "nationalist stances and support for just causes."

The sanctions cover air traffic, arms sales, diplomatic relations and restrictions on the import of some oil industry equipment. Oil drilling equipment is not prohibited and there is no oil embargo.

Mr. Vorontsov said that Russia proposed the council to the secretary-general to promote dialogue on the trial and the sanctions, noting that Libya has made some positive statements. But he said the suggestion died for lack of support.

"The general feeling was it is taking too long... action is overdue and effort should be exerted for the peaceful resolution of the problem," Mr. Vorontsov said.

Arab Gulf states edge closer to customs union

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Six wealthy Arab Gulf states have made headway in a long-standing bid to set up a customs union which will give birth to a common regional market and pave the way for a free trade pact with European economic partners. Gulf officials have said.

Customs chiefs from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have finished drawing up most of a list of imported products to be exempted or covered by a proposed five to 10 per cent customs tariff, they said.

The customs officials, who reviewed the list at talks in Riyadh in July, will meet again in the Gulf capital in October to put the finishing touches and discuss the unified tax proposed by the GCC secretariat.

"The date of the October meeting has not been fixed yet but it could take place in the second half ahead of talks by the finance ministers," an official from the Riyad-based secretariat told AFP by telephone.

"The meeting will cover the secretariat's proposal for a standard customs tariff and the list of products to be covered. The list has almost been completed and this constitutes a big step towards a customs union," he said.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have been considering unifying their tariffs for more than seven years in line with their 1983 accord to establish a common market.

Until recently, the talks made little progress as some members had refused to lower their tariffs on the grounds this will hit their income.

Bahrain was the strongest opponent of reducing duties as import taxes provide a large part of its revenues, in contrast with other GCC members, which depend heavily on oil and gas exports.

Saudi Arabia, which also imposes high tariffs, had demanded selective cuts to protect its burgeoning industries.

Another obstacle was the low tariff in the UAE, which had argued hiking taxes was against its free trade policy. But the problem has been tackled this week, when it raised duties to four per cent from one per cent.

Gulf officials said the compromise of five to 10 per cent was an initial proposal and could be modified to accommodate more demands by members.

But they noted it could be endorsed if member states agreed on exempting certain products and maintaining protection on others.

"The problem of revenues could be resolved through a mechanism that will be discussed at a later stage," the GCC official said. "It provides for collecting tax revenues from all members and distributing them proportionately. We have found such a suggestion feasible but it needs more studies."

UAE customs chief Obaid Susti said this week the five per cent tariff would cover food and other essential products while 10 per cent would

be levied on luxury items and other non-essential goods.

"I am optimistic about a unified GCC customs tariff," the official Gulf News Agency quoted Bahraini acting customs director, Ali Muhammed, as saying. "GCC states have made large progress in bridging the gap in their views about the tariff and this will accelerate plans for a joint tariff."

In recent Gulf press comments, GCC assistant secretary general Abdullah Al Otaiz said a customs union was essential for the creation of a common market, which also envisages alignment of currencies and linking of bourses.

A common GCC market will give birth to the biggest oil bloc in the world and one of the main consumer markets, with imports of more than \$80 billion a year. Its gross domestic product (GDP) stood at around \$204 billion in 1992, nearly 42 per cent of the total Arab GDP of \$480 billion.

Gulf officials have said a single customs tariff would facilitate their negotiations with the European Union for a free trade pact, that will open European market for the growing GCC petrochemical exports.

GCC states produce most of the Arab petrochemical exports of around eight million tonnes per year and their investment in the sector is estimated at \$18 billion. An official study has estimated they need to invest \$20.8 billion to boost petrochemical output to face growing demand.

Russian premier promises lower taxes to boost output

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has promised lower taxes to stimulate output which fell by almost a fifth in the first half of the year.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said during a visit to the northern autonomous republic of Karelia that a new tax regime, to be introduced from the beginning of 1995, would lighten the burden on companies.

"We will lower taxes. The tax system must not impede production," Interfax News Agency quoted him as saying.

Mr. Chernomyrdin spoke as new data from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) statistics committee, quoted by Interfax, showed Russia's gross domestic product (GDP) fell 17 per cent in the first half of 1994 over a year ago.

All members of the CIS,

which groups 12 former Soviet republics, have struggled to readjust their economies to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the loss of old trading ties.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was quoted by RIA news agency as saying it was not normal that more than 60 per cent of a company's profits should go on tax.

He was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying the government intended to support domestic producers by not lowering import duties in the near future.

However, another cautioned that lower taxes could lead to wider budget deficit, requiring a growth in money supply.

The 1994 budget envisages a deficit of 70 trillion roubles, or 10 per cent of GDP.

Finance Minister Sergei Dubinin has said the first half deficit was just above 10 per cent of GDP and that the deficit was "at the level we have planned."

The government has also been aggressively selling treasury bills to narrow its budget deficit.

Recently, an auction of 595.6 billion roubles (nearly \$300 million) of three-month T-bills was oversubscribed by banks with demand totalling 707.5 billion (nearly \$350 million).

But finance ministry officials say tax and other budget revenues will be way below the target this year.

Many economists say revenue forecasts are over-optimistic and spending plans do not take account of tough demands from the military and agriculture. State spending is expected to rise in the coming months to finance the harvest campaign.

In another step designed to stimulate output, Russia's central bank has cut its three-month refinancing rate to 150 per cent annual from 155 per cent, the sixth cut since April.

The central bank has lowered its refinancing rate in stages from 210 per cent following a steady fall in monthly inflation to 4.8 per cent in June from a 1994 peak of 22 per cent in January.

"The rate cut of five per cent has really not had a big effect on the market. The central bank has been playing catch-up with the interbank rate," said Viktor Huaco, president of the ITS Finance Corporation.

Mr. Huaco said it was unlikely the rate would fall much further soon because of signs of rising inflation.

Consumer prices rose 5.1 per cent in July, government figures have shown. Officials say inflation will rise to 10 or 12 per cent in August and September because of the growth in money supply and new import taxes on a wide range of goods.

India tightens banking regulations

LAGOS (R) — India's central bank has tightened its regulatory control over the banking sector to prevent a repeat of the scandal that rocked the country two years ago.

Chakravarty Rangarajan, governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), said Saturday banks have been asked to introduce a system of concurrent auditing covering 50 per cent of their business operations and 100 per cent of treasury operations.

"This should facilitate early detection of errors and failures," Mr. Rangarajan told the Indian Banks' Association.

The \$1.28 billion financial scandal, in which bankers and brokers colluded to illegally divert funds from the inter-bank securities market to the then-booming stock markets, briefly disrupted an economic liberalisation programme and is still embarrassing the government.

Mr. Rangarajan said the Institute of Chartered Accountants had issued guidelines defining the scope of external audit. It lets auditors report directly to the RBI any serious irregularity.

He acknowledged the complexity of the task, adding that the measures "will be unpleasant, requiring an advanced level of understanding."

However, Mr. Rodriguez said the measures are "urgently needed" to heal the ailing economy suffering from an oversupply of currency of close to \$12 billion, with a budget deficit in excess of \$3 billion.

Officials said the measure would enable the government to double its current revenues of \$100 million to \$50 million pesos annually.

Nigeria's oil strike compounds economic woes

about 50 per cent its normal level.

Other oil unions... have also suffered, though not as much as Shell.

An official of AGIP said production at its Brass River system had been cut, but denied reports that the terminal had been evacuated.

The head of Chevron Nigeria Ltd. was quoted by the Guardian newspaper as saying the strike was hitting his firm's output.

"I cannot say immediately how much we are losing but we have suffered substantially in terms of production delay and losses," said Bill Edman, Chevron Nigeria's managing director.

The strike by the oil unions demanding the release of detained politicians Moshood Abiola and his installation as president, has also disrupted domestic fuel supplies, public transport and other services.

Mr. Abiola, the apparent winner of last year's annulled

presidential vote, is on trial for treason after proclaiming himself president in defiance of military ruler, General Sani Abacha.

Banks in Lagos, Nigeria's financial centre, have been closed for more than three weeks due to a strike by bank employees and management fears that the crisis will set off a run on deposits.

The virtual paralysis of Lagos, Nigeria's commercial centre, has affected the whole economy.

"Everything is at a standstill. The central bank is concerned but there is nothing we can do since it is not an economic problem we are facing," the central bank official said.

Faced with mounting

pressure from pro-democracy groups and unions to quit, Nigeria's rulers have given little attention to the economy, leaving it to drift, financial analysts say.

Shrinking revenue denies manufacturers the hard currency they need to import raw materials and leaves the state hard pressed to service a \$30 billion foreign debt.

Debt servicing arrears at the end of this year may exceed the \$7 billion anticipated in the 1994 budget.

Western creditors and trade partners, unhappy about the slow pace of democratisation and the government's abandonment of IMF economic reforms, are unlikely to be sympathetic to requests for debt relief or new funds.

Cuban lawmakers approve new tax system, restore income tax

HAVANA (AFP) — The Cuban National Assembly approved a new tax system, bringing income tax back for the first time in 30 years, and sharply increasing existing state levies.

In an unanimous vote, legislators passed a bill introduced by President Fidel Castro, who attended a two-day session of the National Assembly of People's Power.

The bill states that "as an inalienable, general principle, all income, including salaries, will be subject to taxes proportionate to their amount."

An initial provision in the bill that called for income tax collection "when the country's economic and social conditions permit it," was struck from the final version at President Castro's insistence.

President Castro said income tax "must not be an untouchable dogma," and restricted debate on the controversial provision.

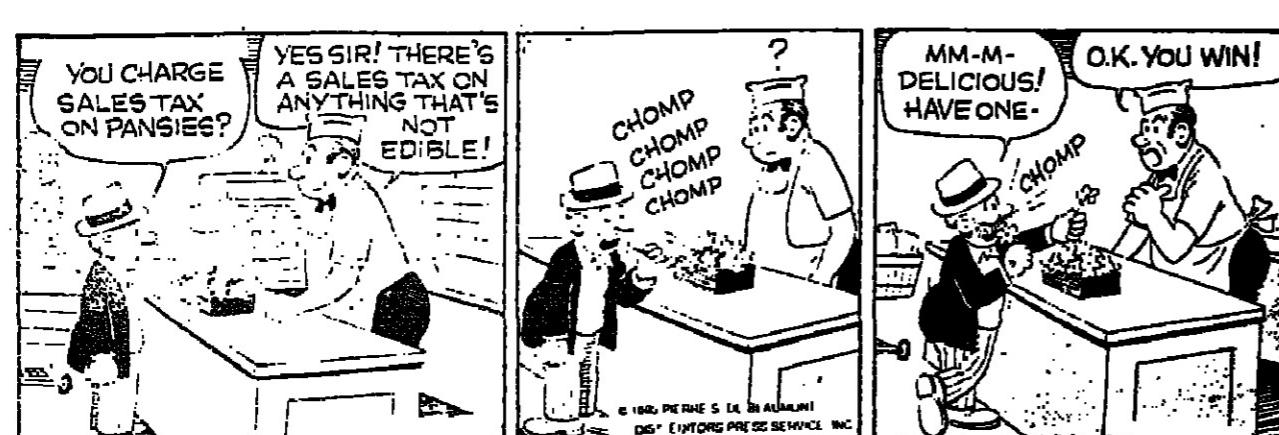
Peanuts



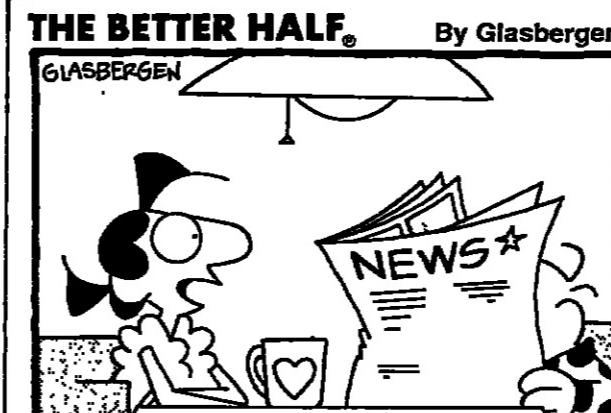
Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arthron

'Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.'

ETHUC

Can't squeeze another customer in here?

FLECT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

SESAUR

DOYLEM

Answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: AGILE RUSTY BEYOND MALLET

Answer: Athlete who learns humility often ends up with these — ALTERED EGOS

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword

by Avery P. Bromfield

ACROSS

1 Film unit 5 Impaled

10 River to the North Sea

14 "A Bell For..."

15 Beads

17 Musical

20 "What's in..."

21 Actor Brian

22 Color

23 Literary

24 Household

27 Picturesque

34 Everything

35 Big city

36 A Details

38 Trials

40 — Island, NY

41 ERA, e.g.

44 Specific talent

48 Give — try

49 Crowd-worship

53 Consider

54 Money user

55 Wood

56 "Be thou as chaste —"

61 Count of Jazz

63 A pompous way

65 TV movie, often

70 Actress

74 Somer

74 A Murphy

75 A Nativity

77 Nasterrick

78 —

80 Cleared away

82 Up

83 Larva

87 Remain

89 Marine fish

Financial Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York	New York
	Close	Close
Dlr 4/8/94	1.5357	1.5415
Sterling Pound	1.5357	1.5415
Deutsche Mark	1.5873	1.5979
Swiss Franc	1.3406	1.3335
French Franc	5.4525	5.4090
Japanese Yen	100.48	100.20
European Currency Unit	1.2040	1.2100

USD Per STC

European Opening = 100 am. GMT

Euromoney Interest Rates Date: 5/8/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.25	4.50	4.87	5.37
Sterling Pound	5.00	5.25	5.62	6.31
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.68	4.85	4.87
Swiss Franc	5.93	6.06	6.18	6.31
French Franc	5.18	5.25	5.37	5.56
Japanese Yen	1.85	2.06	2.06	2.25
European Currency Unit	5.68	5.81	6.00	6.25

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding £1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 5/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6940	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0687	1.0740
Deutsche Mark	0.4395	0.4417
Swiss Franc	0.5199	0.5225
French Franc	0.1282	0.1288
Japanese Yen	0.6915	0.6950
Dutch Guilder	0.3912	0.3932
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0440	0.0442
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 6/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8250	1.8420
Lebanese Lira	0.040345	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1847	0.1861
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5100	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	0.1894	0.1917
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7840	1.7940
UAE Dirham	0.1884	0.1893
Greek Drachma	0.2625	0.3025
Cypriot Pound	1.3780	1.4980

Per 100

AFM in wait-and-see for tangible peace

By Suliman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — Amman stock exchange traders, unmoved by Jordanian-Israeli peace moves, prefer a wait-and-see game until tangible economic signs of peace emerge that can revive dormant trading, investors and bankers said Saturday.

"There will be a lag in the market until investors see practical, positive results from the latest Jordanian-Israeli peace moves," said Jawad Hadid, general manager of Arab Banking Corporation's (ABC) Jordanian subsidiary told Reuters.

"Investors are hesitant, they still have to digest these bold steps, they were not prepared yet," added Mr. Hadid.

The market in the last two weeks suffered a setback

when a long awaited political event — a Jordanian-Israeli summit in Washington — left investors unmoved and dashed hopes of a price rally from levels of near record lows for the year.

The general price index of the Amman Financial Market at end of weekly trading on Wednesday dropped 0.4 per cent, or 0.6 points to 151.5 points from 152.1 points at the previous week's close.

The index, soared to a record peak of 181 points in July 1993 on high expectations of Middle East peace dividends. Current prices are around 30 per cent below their 1993 high levels.

Brokers say the market failed to react to the breakthrough with Israel as over-optimism of quick economic gains from bold peace moves is overtaken by a wait-and-see sentiment over how and

when Jordan will benefit. Investors in the meantime refrain from buying, with thin trading of around 500 daily contracts giving a free hand for small speculators to manipulate prices on small deals, brokers say.

Weak investor sentiment is behind a steep 55.5 per cent fall in the seven months of 1994, to 325 million dinars (\$466 million), against 731 million dinars (\$10 billion) for the same period in 1993.

Trading last month

plunged to 35.4 million dinars (\$50.8 million) against 64.5 million dinars (\$92.6 million) in July 1993. Daily average trading fell in July to 1.6 million dinars against seven million dinars in July 1993.

Investors are now looking at prospects of an extended Jordanian economic role in the Israeli-occupied West Bank after a period of uncertainty when the PLO-Israeli accord awakened fears about

trading last month

Amman from peace talks. The market, highly sensitive to Middle East peace moves, has been hit by the uncertainty of economic ties with the West Bank.

However, bankers' and economists' optimism in the medium- and long-term is pinned on good economic performance and tangible peace gains emerging early next year — to attract institutional investors and foreign funds.

"The market is overreacting negatively, but this is unjustified given the peace breakthrough, current attractive price levels and company performance," said Rajai Kossous, chief economist at Jordan Investment Finance Bank.

"Prospects look very positive towards end of year and early 1995, when economic gains being negotiated now in peace talks start to materialise," he added.

UAE seeks to curb commercial malpractices

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a key centre for Asians and other workers, has started measures to curb what it called illegal commercial activities aimed at circumventing restrictions on business by foreigners.

Economist said the measures could negatively affect the flow of foreign capital as they would make it more difficult for foreign investors to obtain permission to start business in the oil-rich Gulf country.

"Foreign investors have been flocking to the UAE over the past decade because they could find loopholes on circumventing restrictions on doing business," an economic expert said.

"Enforcement of new measures could block those loopholes and this will obstruct investment. They could also scare away resident investors."

According to the semi-official daily Al Ittihad, the law because nationals are receiving a token annual in-

federal cabinet has asked the economy and commerce ministry to draft new regulations to fight what it dubbed "illegal commercial activities and trade cover-up."

It said local and foreign investors were violating existing commercial laws by not complying with the partnership basis, under which expatriates must have a minimum 51 per cent local ownership in any project.

Other commercial activities are limited only to nationals, the paper said.

"The ministry has been issuing licences for business according to those rules," the ministry said in a letter published in Al Ittihad.

"But in practice, it has been noticed that there are violations. Nationals are obtaining licences just to lease them to foreign investors and this phenomenon has become widespread."

"This is in violation of the law because nationals are receiving a token annual in-

case such restrictions if they want to attract technology.

The UAE partnership laws are not enforced in its Dubai free trade zone at Jebel Ali, where foreigners can have a 100 per cent ownership. This has attracted nearly 500 foreign companies with investment of more than \$1 billion and turned it into the biggest free zone in the region.

Outside the zone, most of the small and medium investors in the UAE are from India, Japan, China, the United States and other Western nations, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Arab countries. Their investments are concentrated in light industries, farming, trade and services.

"This illegal trade in business licences has given rise to other malpractices like trading in entry visas and residence," said the ministry letter, which was sent to the interior ministry and other government departments seeking their advice on counter-measures."

IVECO puts in sole bid for Egyptian vehicle maker

CAIRO (R) — The Italian company IVECO, the truck division of the Fiat group, has made a bid for the Egyptian state-owned vehicle maker Nasr Automotive Manufacturing Company (NASCO), a senior executive said Monday.

Abdul Wahhab El Habak, chairman of the state holding company which owns NASCO, told Reuters it was the only bid he had received. "The response was very disappointing," he added.

The holding company, Engineering Industries Company (EIC), had received requests for information about Nasr from 10 companies but the other nine, including the Korean firm Daewoo and the Japanese company Sumitomo, did not follow up.

Nasr is one of 21 industrial companies which EIC is trying to privatise as part of a government economic reform programme backed by the World Bank and foreign donors.

The programme is moving slower than expected, with only three complete companies sold in two years.

Mr. Habak said he could give no details of the IVECO bid because EIC had not yet studied it in detail. The holding company would start private negotiations with IVECO, he added.

But he added that in light of the poor response to the Nasr and other EIC privatisations public sector officials would review the whole programme.

"We are going to brainstorm the subject to see how to reach serious buyers and to see if the environment is suitable for privatisation," he said.

Most of the EIC companies on offer have been making losses and some have large debts outstanding.

Nasr, for example, lost 28 million pounds (\$8.3 million) in 1993 and is expected to lose 15 million (\$4.4 million) this year. It assembles about 8,000 cars, trucks and buses a year.

EIC had a similar experience with one of its only profitable companies — Delta Industrial Company (IDEAL), one of Egypt's main manufacturers of refrigerators, washing machines, dish washers and steel furniture.

Electrolux of Sweden, the company which showed most interest, asked for an extra four months to study IDEAL and EIC agreed. "But if other buyers come in the meantime, we are keeping it open," said Mr. Habak.

The chairman said two companies had bought documents on Yayat (Springs and Transport Needs)

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Convenience

Two athletes fail drug tests ahead of European championships

HELSINKI (R) — Norwegian sprinter Adam Okeke and a second, unidentified athlete have failed drugs tests as doping cast a dark shadow over athletics on the eve of the European championships.

Okeke was thrown out of the championships Saturday morning after testing positive for the stimulant pseudoephedrine last month and faces a three-month ban from the sport.

International athletics sources said later in the day that another European athlete due to compete at the championships had also tested positive for a banned stimulant.

"There is another positive test involving an athlete who was due to compete at the championships," one source

said.

"The first sample is positive but there has to be a second test to confirm it. No name can be given now, nor the country involved. The national federations are always informed."

Norwegian team officials said the Nigerian-born Okeke, who was due to compete in the 100 and 200 metres here, had tested positive for pseudoephedrine at the Stockholm Grand Prix on July 12.

The 24-year-old Okeke, who was not a major threat to Britain's defending champion Linford Christie in the 100 metres but could have reached the final, faces a likely ban of three months from the sport.

The sport's governing body, the International

Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), do not regard the drug as a serious enough offence to merit a longer ban.

But the drug is controversial since some former athletes believe it can be very effective in improving sprinting speed and aggression.

Forced to pack his bags and return home to Oslo instead of preparing for Sunday's 100 metres heats, Okeke said he had not knowingly taken an illegal stimulant and blamed a doctor in the United States for misleading him.

"I did not know the allergy medicine I was prescribed contained an illegal substance. I asked the doctor if I could use it and he said 'yes.' Now that has been proved wrong and it's very dis-

appointing," he told reporters in Oslo.

Asked why he had not been more careful Okeke said that, while accepting final responsibility himself, he had expected better from a doctor.

"If you can't trust a doctor who can you trust?" said Okeke, who trained and raced in the United States earlier in the season.

A Norwegian federation spokesman in Oslo said that whenever Okeke had been tested recently he had noted the name of the allergy drug on the records.

"He has played his cards openly. But in the end we had no choice but to pull him out of the championships," he added.

The two stars who will not shine at Helsinki

HELSINKI (AFP) — Two of athletics' highest-profile stars — Ukrainian Sergei Bubka and German Katrina Krabbe — will not be taking part at the European championships here over the next two weeks.

The reasons for their absence could not be more different. And yet their cases are linked — and are typical of the major, disturbing trends within the sport.

Bubka, the world's greatest record breaker, simply cannot be bothered.

The Ukrainian world champion, respected though he is, remains as sharp with a calculator as with a pole vault.

He may blame fatigue and too much competition for his non-appearance. But the veteran of 15 world records — the last 11.4-metre outcome of Bubka's Italy at the end of last month — leaves here a man who can no longer turn up, and his 16th seems do not add up.

Bubka, in contrast, would like to compete. But the world sprinter with catwalk looks and champion's pedigree

proved too desperate to earn the huge sums being offered by athletics promoters and the fashion industry.

Yearning for top status, she escaped one drugs ban on a technicality in January 1992 only to be caught again within months and, despite a complex legal challenge, has remained at the side to the track ever since.

Few fans at the Europeans which begin here on Sunday will miss Krabbe and her clemency.

Ironically, Bubka may be no great loss either.

His dominance has virtually ruled out competition and reduced pole vaulting to a record-chasing circus with the 30-year-old sportsman-turned-accountant shrewdly adding one centimetre to the height each time to maximise his world record bonuses.

But his decision to skip the event here is becoming part of a trend threatening to split the sport into two divisions — the elite and the also-rans. It could also spell the beginning of the end for events like the Europeans.

Only last year Noureddine Morceli, the new 3,000 metre record holder, threatened to

boycott the World Championships at Stuttgart last year. A luxury Mercedes let alone the honour of being world champion — was simply not enough incentive to don his spikes. (Morceli did decide to run in the end. To this day the IAAF's athletics chiefs have denied doing a deal over appearance money.)

Yobes Ondieki, Kenya's former 10,000 metre world record holder until William Siegi came along last month of Oslo, carried out his threat of not running at Stuttgart and has made it plain he will continue to put money ahead of medals.

Yet his argument — backed up by his marathon star wife Lisa — has a logic which is hard to overturn.

Distance runners can only manage a handful of top-class performances each year without risking burn-out and injury — so why waste them on the quest for a glory when the mortgage still has to be paid?

It was a case perfectly put by Britain's long-distance runner Rob Denmark when national skipper Linford Christie criticised his team-

mates for snubbing the non-prize paying European Cup earlier this season.

Denmark bluntly pointed out there was a world of a difference between dashing 100 metre and 5,000 metre, to which he might also have added that not every athlete earns \$50,000 an appearance and can therefore afford to give his country a free performance.

Until national federations put athletes on contracts this problem will remain.

The escalating rewards of athletic excellence will also mean there will be more Krabbes and more Bubkas in the future.

Whether there will be more meaningful European championships is another matter.

If the Bubka trend continues, the European showpiece could turn into a second-class event or even fade away altogether, with athletes preferring a dash-for-cash at Grand Prix meetings.

A thought which Bubka, in his 85,000-pound, Setsi-tribe number-plated Ferrari, might like to consider during the next fortnight.

The tactic seems to have worked.

Christie said on the eve of the championships Saturday he was desperate to get back on the track and was in the kind of form which took him to his world title in the German city of Stuttgart last August.

He (Ron Roddan) said it was better to sit and wait and be hungry and it would be a lot better than letting it out," Christie said. "It was a good idea because now I really can't wait to get out and do it.

Asked if he had recovered from the injury, he added: "Definitely, I am in very good shape. I am running as well now as at this time last year."

Sunday's heats will mark Christie's first appearance since he pulled up at the end of the 100 metres at the London Grand Prix on July 15. The injury was diagnosed as a hamstring tear and the Briton needed special treatment with one of Europe's top sports doctors, German Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfarth.

In recent days Christie has been testing out the injury in some intensive sprint sessions with his friend Colin Jackson, the world high hurdles champion.

Asked if he still had any doubts about the injury, Christie said: "If it is gonna go, it is gonna go."

Each of the medal contenders in the women's final programme fell on most of their big jumps, turned triples into doubles and even singles and barely landed the few turns they managed to complete.

Russian Olga Markova and Marie Pierre Leray of France were ranked second and third going into the final, but skated as badly as Bonaly.

In a classier ice dancing competition, Ukrainian Irina Romanova and Igor Yaroshenko won the gold with choreography inspired by the flappers of the 1920s.

Russia's Irina Lobacheva and Ilya Averbuch skated a Hungarian waltz to take second place while their compatriots Yekaterina Svirina and Sergei Sakhnovsky finished third.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 1994 11

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rijkkaard ends international career

AMSTERDAM (R) — Frank Rijkkaard is quitting the Dutch national team and plans to retire from football at the end of this season, the Dutch news agency ANP reported on Friday. The 31-year-old midfielder said there was no point remaining in the national side because he would not be available for the whole of the Netherlands' qualification campaign for the 1996 European championship. The last of Rijkkaard's 74 international appearance was the 3-2 World Cup quarter-final defeat to Brazil in Dallas. Rijkkaard returned to play for his club Ajax Amsterdam last season after six successful years at AC Milan and is hoping to help lead them to a successful defence of their Dutch title in his final season.

Maradona bought over-the-counter medication

Buenos Aires (AFP) — Diego Maradona bought "over-the-counter" medication in the United States during the World Cup, containing ephedrine derivative, a senior sports doctor said here Friday. Argentina's World Cup captain was sent home early from the World Cup by FIFA, football's governing body, for taking ephedrine, a banned drug. Nestor Lentini, head of Argentina's leading control body on sports medicine, the CENARD, said the institute had carried out an investigation into where the ephedrine came from. Lentini told journalists Maradona was taking medication permitted by FIFA, world football's governing body, at the start of the World Cup. He ran out of the medication after Argentina's first match against Greece on June 21. He bought a substitute from a Boston pharmacy. The new medication, unknown to the player, contained the banned drug. Argentina Football Association President Julio Grondona will travel to Zurich on Sunday to defend the player at a FIFA hearing into the drug case. Maradona is also expected to attend. FIFA will announce its findings on Aug. 26.

Wednesday close Petrescu deal

SHEFFIELD, England (AFP) — Sheffield Wednesday completed the £1 million-pound signing of Romanian World Cup defender Dan Petrescu here on Saturday. The 26-year-old from Italian club Genoa signed a four-year contract at Hillsborough, then flew to Bucharest to train with his former club, Steaua, while waiting for a work permit. Wednesday manager Trevor Francis was delighted to have captured the defender: "I'm very pleased that we have taken a player from the Italian League, which is difficult to do," he said. Petrescu said: "This is a test for me. I have seen English football on television and I like it. In Romania people say it is difficult to play in England but I am looking forward to it."

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Neither vulnerable. North deals. spot, but the alternative contract of five diamonds makes easily. Note that North had no qualms about raising spades with good three-card support.

East won the first two tricks with the queen and ace hearts, then continued with the king. Declared ruffed and drew three rounds of trumps and all would have been well had the suit split evenly. As it was, West remained with a long trump and put it to good use by ruffing the third diamond. On the club return the last chance for the contract vanished when East topped dummy's queen with the king and declarer could ruff only seven tricks.

The bidding: North East South West 10 1 1 Pass 2 2 Pass 4 4 Pass. The bidding was at fault. Suppose that instead of ruffing the third heart, declarer were to discard a minor suit card.

The so-called Moysian fit (4-3 in a major) often provides the best contract. However, since the fit is somewhat tenuous, it can be attacked with a forcing game. But there are ways to outlast such a pre-emption.

North-South bid sensibly to an excellent game. Players who use negative doubles might miss this

Eldredge back on medal stand

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Charlie Chaplin on skates.

Todd Eldredge paralysed the mannerisms of the comic genius including an unintentional pratfall — to win the silver medal in men's figure skating Friday night at the Goodwill Games.

The former two time U.S. champion finished behind 1994 Olympic champion Alexei Urmanov of Russia, breaking a three-year medal drought in major international championships.

Eldredge was the surprise of the skating competition, knocking 1994 Olympic bronze medalist Philippe Candeloro of France into third place.

The 23-year-old Eldredge had failed to produce in big events since winning the bronze medal at the 1991 World Championships. He was 10th at the 1992 Olympics, seventh at the 1992 Worlds, and failed to qualify for the last two worlds and the 1994 Olympics.

"I'd been training really well for the last three weeks and my confidence was pretty high," Eldredge said. "Not being at the worlds this year, it's good to go out and compete against the guys who were there and to place ahead of some of them. For me, it was my 1994 Worlds."

It was a banner night for the hometown skater at the 7,500-seat Jubilee Palace of Sports, which was at near capacity.

"As I was doing my back crossovers, my foot just slipped right out from under me and I ended up on my rear end," he said.

Despite the fall, Eldredge scored 5.75 and 5.75 and 5.85.

Urmanov, using a more classical routine, nailed six triple jumps and faltered only a triple flip to score technical marks of 5.85 and 5.95 and a clean sweep of 5.95 for artistic impression.

Candeloro, the pontailed French heart-throb, had his young female fans shrieking like rock groupies before, during and after his "godfather" routine. But rough landings on more than half of his attempted triple jumps kept him in third.

Mishukienok and Dmitriev, the 1992 Olympic champions, led a Russian — and St. Petersburg sweep — in the parish. Marina Eltsova and Andrei Bushkov took the Silver and Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov the bronze. Scott Donie was the top U.S. finisher in fifth.

American pairs fared better than they did in Thursday's technical programme.

Stefanie Steigler, 14, and Lance Travis, 23, held onto fifth with a smooth routine. Calla Urbanski, 34, and Rocky Marval, 28, the former two time U.S. champions reunited this year, finished sixth.

Earlier Friday, Gurya Bonaly took the lead after the women's technical programme.

The session was held in the afternoon to make up for delays caused by ice-freezing problems at the rink.

In other events Friday:

— In women's volleyball, Russia swept the United States 3-0 (15-6, 15-10, 15-8) to win the gold medal. Japan beat China 3-1 for the bronze.

— In men's volleyball, Steffi Graf overcame inconsistent play and the challenge from France's Julie Halard on Friday to advance to the semifinals of the Toshiba Classic.

Graf reaches Toshiba Classic semifinals

CARLSBAD, California (R)

— Steffi Graf overcame inconsistent play and the challenge from France's Julie Halard on Friday to advance to the semifinals of the Toshiba Classic.

The top-seeded world number one raced through the third set to complete a 6-4 6-7(6) 6-2 victory over the sixth-seeded Halard. But the German star is not at all happy with her game.

"I can't say I'm very pleased with the way I'm playing," said the three-time champion. "Obviously in the third set things went better but that's because she got a rally to force a tie-break.

While Graf struggled with her strokes, second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario crushed Germany's Christine Singer 6-0 6-1 in 51 minutes to take her place in the final four.

Sanchez, who escaped a tough three-set match on Thursday to reach the quarter-finals, never left any doubt about the outcome of Friday's contest.

"Today was much different," said the French Open champion, who committed just four unforced errors.

"Yesterday was kind of a warning and I didn't want the same thing to happen as it did

yesterday. I came out very hungry and was ready to play today," added Sanchez, who will play either Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez or Jana Novotna in Saturday's semifinal.

Graf will meet unseeded American Tami Whitlinger-Jones, who moved into the third set when fourth seed Lindsay Davenport defaulted due to a strained left calf muscle.

The top seed held a 5-2 second set lead when her game unravelled and the 18th-ranked Halard mounted a rally to force a tie-break.

"At 5-2 everything was fine, but then I just kept falling apart," said Graf, who committed a whopping 41 unforced errors in the two hour and 10-minute match. "I don't think I'm really closing out the games very well right now."

Halard won the tiebreaker 8-6 on a questionable service call which upset the German star. Graf then settled down in the final set and cut way down on her errors to improve to 7-0 against Halard.

But blowing a big lead has Graf concerned.

"I just feel I'm not 100 percent on the court," she said.

"My concentration is not where I want to be all the time."

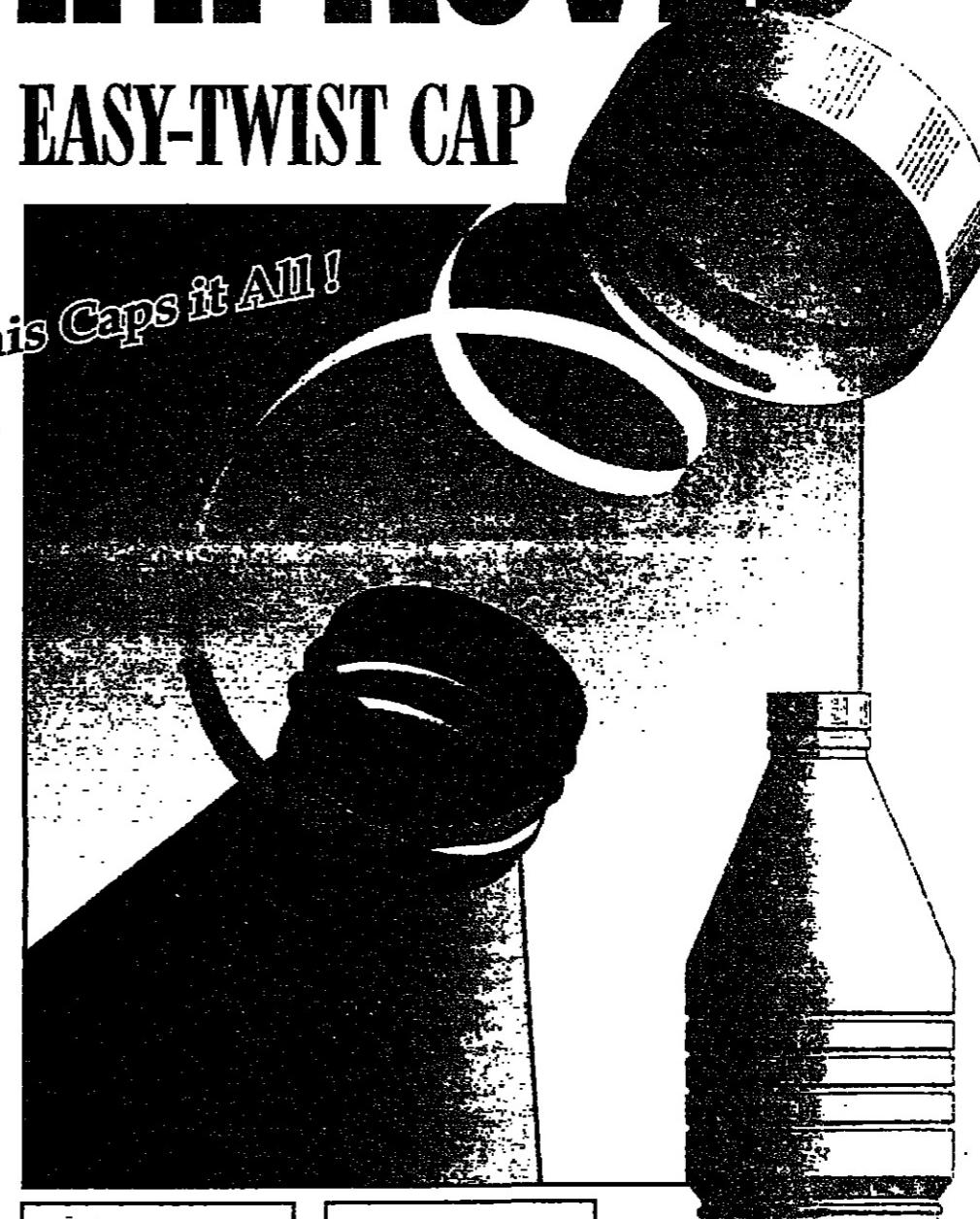
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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Egypt open trade talks

Cairo (Petra) — Jordanian-Egyptian talks started here on Saturday on implementation of a trade cooperation protocol signed two years ago through which new trade agreements were reached to provide duty customs exemptions for exports between the two countries. The Jordanian delegation is headed by Secretary-General of the Ministry of Trade and Industry Marwan Amin.

Singapore hangs 2 Nigerians, Malaysian

SINGAPORE (R) — Two Nigerians and a Malaysian convicted of heroin trafficking were hanged at Singapore's Changi prison, the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) said on Saturday. Nigerian nationals Gabriel Okonkwo, 33, and Paul Okechukwu Ngwudo, 29, were arrested in December 1990 in a hotel room in Singapore for trafficking in 538.3 grammes of heroin, it said. Malaysian Lim Swee Thong, 43, was arrested in June 1991 at a bus stop bordering Malaysia for trafficking in 24.91 grammes of heroin, a CNB statement said. The three men were hanged on Friday. The death sentence is mandatory in Singapore for anyone found guilty of trafficking in more than 15 grammes of heroin, 30 grammes of morphine or 500 500 grammes of cannabis. Singapore has hanged 72 people for trafficking since it introduced its anti-drug laws in 1975.

Judge refuses to renew North's gun permit

CHAMPAIGN (AP) — An American judge has refused to renew Oliver North's gun permit because the former marine is "not of good character." Mr. North, the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate, was convicted in 1991 for his role in the Iran-contra arms-for-hostages deal. The verdict was overturned on appeal, but Judge James L. Berry said in Monday's decision that he could not ignore Mr. North's conviction "for crimes involving moral turpitude." Mr. North, who received notice of Mr. Berry's decision in the mail Friday, had been allowed to carry up to three concealed handguns, but his permit expired in March. His campaign staff claimed the decision was politically motivated. Mr. Berry, a Democrat, granted Mr. North his permit in 1992. "In 1992 Judge Berry found Oliver North to be of good character," campaign spokesman Mark Merritt said. "The only difference between 1992 and 1994 is that this year, Ollie North is running for the Senate."

Bombay blast suspect sheltered in Thailand

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A key suspect in last year's bombing serial blasts, allegedly sheltered by Pakistani intelligence, was shifted briefly to Thailand to avoid detection, the federal detective agency said here Saturday. Yaqub Abdul Razak Memon, 33, who was arrested in New Delhi's railway station Friday, was moved to Bangkok last April by Pakistani agents with his family for 12 days, a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) spokesman said. Home Minister Shankarao Chavan has said India had "irrefutable" evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the world's worst urban guerrilla strike following Mr. Memon's arrest and the seizure of incriminating documents and false passports. More than 300 people were killed and a dozen-odd landmarks damaged in the chain bombings which rocked India's financial heart. The CBI official said Mr. Memon and his family travelled to Thailand with false Pakistani passports and identities provided by Islamabad when New Delhi stepped up pressure for their extradition. Pakistan has denied involvement in the blasts and charges of sheltering suspects.

Iran seizes 55 tonnes of drugs

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police seized 55 tonnes of drugs in four months up to July 21, an 11 per cent leap on the same period in 1993, the official IRNA news agency said Saturday. According to official sources, some 10,000 drug traffickers — including 128 foreigners — and 15,000 drug addicts have been arrested since the beginning of this year. A total of almost 95 tonnes of drugs, mainly opium from Afghanistan and Pakistan, were seized in Iran in 1993. Drug trafficking and consumption were strictly banned in Iran under a law passed in 1989 laying down the death penalty for any person found with more than 30 grammes of heroin or more than five kilometres of opium.

Protests threaten Russian nuclear chaos

MOSCOW (AFP) — Workers who have not been paid for months pressed on with sit-down protests at two of Russia's nuclear power stations Saturday, amid chaos throughout the country's nuclear networks. The workers have camped outside the plants' administrative buildings and refused to go home after their shifts since July 28, the Interfax agency said. The protesters at the Smolensk station, west of Moscow, and the Kolsk station in Russia's far north are demanding their wages be paid and that electricity consumers pay their bills, the agency said. The Sverdlovsk newspaper said Saturday that more than 550 workers at the two plants had not been paid since April. Interfax added that staff at Russia's seven other nuclear power plants were supporting the protest. The situation nationwide is "in a crisis and could soon become an emergency," the Russian nuclear workers' union was quoted as saying by Sverdlovsk.

Former Italian minister rearrested

ROME (R) — Former Italian Health Minister Francesco De Lorenzo, freed from prison last month under a disputed government decree limiting pre-trial detention, was arrested again on Saturday, judicial sources said. The ministers' tribunal — a special body dealing with cases involving past and present members of government — issued a warrant for Mr. De Lorenzo in connection with alleged corruption involving the health service. Police subsequently detained him in the southern city of Naples where he has been under house arrest since July 14. Mr. De Lorenzo was one of the high profile suspects who got out of jail in July when Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government passed a controversial decree curbing magistrates' use of pre-trial custody. As he left Naples' Poggioreale prison last month, protesters jeered "Thief, thief," spat and threw coins at the former minister, hated because he is believed to have plundered huge sums which should have been used to treat the sick.

Cousin of Alfia jailed for adultery

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The cousin of Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfia was jailed for nine months Saturday by a Khartoum court for adultery and attempted bribery, the state-run Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Saturday. The agency said the central Khartoum criminal court also ordered Farouq Hassan Al Alfia, personnel director of the Egyptian irrigation office in Sudan to pay a 50,000 Sudanese pound (around \$170) fine. Another three months will be added to his sentence if he fails to pay, the court ordered. SUNA said the court ordered Mr. Alfia expelled from the country once he had completed his sentence. The third-ranking official at the Egyptian irrigation office here was also ordered to quit the country. According to the agency Mr. Alfia was staying in a company house in the Sudanese capital which he used as a place for practising adultery and vice. Following a tip-off from neighbours police raided the house and caught him "red-handed," SUNA said, adding that Mr. Alfia offered the police a huge sum of money in a bid to bribe himself out of trouble. The incident is thought likely to further strain the already deteriorating relations between the two neighbouring countries. The Khartoum authorities earlier this year took over the Egyptian irrigation houses on grounds that they originally belonged to Khartoum city council and were only rented by the Egyptian administration.



A mother and her sick child wait at a hospital in a camp for Rwandan Hutsu refugees at Gikosoro in the French protection zone in south-west Rwanda. The French troops will be replaced by the end of the month by a U.N. protection force (AFP photo)

Food starts arriving for Rwandans in Zaire border

KIGALI (Agencies) — The first big food consignment for hundreds of thousands of starving Rwandan refugees arrived in the Zairean border town of Bukavu on Saturday, U.N. officials said.

In the east of Rwanda, which has been under the control of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) for three months, between 3,000 and 5,000 people of the majority Hutu tribe were fleeing to neighbouring Tanzania every day, an aid worker said.

"However, the threat of tens of thousands of more refugees arriving from north-western Rwanda is always there and we must keep the supplies coming in."

About 1,700 troops from the United States, Britain, Canada and Australia are deployed in Rwanda to help rebuild war-damaged infrastructure and care for homeless refugees.

But many of those returning appear not to be refugees who flee the country in recent weeks but Tutsis whose families went into exile in 1959, when a bloody Hutu uprising overthrew the Tutsi feudal monarchy.

Rwanda's vice president and defence minister, General Paul Kagame, on Saturday denied media reports that RPF soldiers were harassing refugees to prevent them from returning home.

In an interview with Radio Rwanda, the RPF leader accused the rival Hutu community of harassing refugees, and said that as far as the Tutsi-based RPF was concerned "if a case of harassment" is notified it would be an isolated case and not generalised."

Mr. Page told Reuters that at least 23 per cent of refugees face severe malnutrition and the WFP needed a minimum of 50 tonnes of food daily for the Bukavu refugee population.

"This flight arranged with Norwegian church aid and LWF (Lutheran World Federation) brings hope that we are able to prevent a disaster occurring in Bukavu," Mr. Page said.

"However, the threat of tens of thousands of more refugees arriving from north-western Rwanda is always there and we must keep the supplies coming in."

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(Continued on page 2)

'Burundi could be another Rwanda'

LONDON (Agencies) — Burundi has split into armed factions and could suffer ethnic bloodshed reminiscent of the recent slaughter in neighbouring Rwanda. Amnesty International warned here Friday.

A report from the human rights organisation, based on the findings of an investigating team that has just completed a 10-day mission to the country, said "hundreds of people are being killed in massacres every month" and determined that "the criminal justice system has but completely broken down."

It described Burundi as potentially "another Rwanda."

Burundi, as is the case in Rwanda, is populated by Hutu and Tutsi.

The Amnestys team "found (Burundi) divided into hostile communities."

"Hundreds of killings were continuing to be carried out by armed groups or armed forces," according to the re-

port. "Several hundred people died in Muramvya province in July alone."

The report disclosed that one Amnesty delegate "visited a newly discovered mass grave in Kirundo province, bordering Rwanda, which is believed to contain the remains of unknown numbers of Rwandan refugees thought to have been killed in mid-June this year."

Amnesty called for a monitoring mission from the Organisation of African Unity in Burundi to be reinforced and deplored the fact that "nothing is being done at the national or international level" to bring those responsible for the killings last year.

It also appealed for international observers to be deployed in Rwanda "to ensure effective and impartial investigations."

"It could go their way," said Mike Dottridge, the human rights organisation's programme director for Afri-

ca who returned Thursday from a 10-day trip to Burundi. "It remains a tense situation."

A newly discovered mass grave in northeastern Burundi is believed to contain the remains of Rwandan refugees killed in mid-June, he said. Local authorities refused to allow an investigation, fearing that might lead to disturbances.

In several incidents further west, Mr. Dottridge said, Rwandan refugees were allegedly killed by associates of the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front who crossed into Burundi.

Relations between Burundi's Hutus and Tutsis have become very hostile, and the two communities live in separate villages or distinct districts within town, he said.

The Organisation of African Unity, the United Nations, Western diplomats and aid workers have been trying to keep Burundi from exploding.

Palestine People's Party leader criticises PLO over Jerusalem stand

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary General of the Palestine People's Party (PPP) Bashir Barghouti has criticised attempts by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to exacerbate difference with Jordan over the issue of Jerusalem and said these differences could be solved in a friendly manner without resorting to the Arab League or any other side.

In a lecture delivered Thursday in the West Bank city of Beit Jala, Mr. Barghouti said he considered these attempts to expand differences as an escape from the "main battle scene" by plotting a "side quarrel because our struggle over Jerusalem is originally with the occupation authorities."

Mr. Barghouti said in his lecture, whose text was faxed to the Jordan Times from Jerusalem, that Jordan has continued to take care of holy places and Islamic Waqf since it severed legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in 1988 in agreement with the Palestinians.

"Thus our duty requires that we should view Jerusalem not only as holy places, but also we should view it as an integral part of the lands occupied in 1967 and lands to which (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 242 applies, which significance is enhanced by its religious status," he said.

Mr. Barghouti also said that objections to the recent trilateral summit of His Majesty King Hussein, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and American President Bill Clinton were baseless.

"Jordan is not a foreign country that we do not care about. Several bonds tie us with it. They (Jordan) had announced since the beginning of the negotiations process that they want to negotiate over their lands in Ghor Al Safi and Al Hammam area and to regain their water rights. These goals are about to be achieved and I think it is a shame to accuse people who were honest with themselves because they did not claim they were negotiating to regain Jaffa."

Mr. Barghouti said the

Palestinians were living through a new situation, not only because of the Cairo agreement or the return of the Palestinian leadership to the self-rule areas, but also "because the Arab status quo does not offer any substitutes" and we are hostages to this status quo and would be deceived ourselves if we talk about forgetting about the Cairo agreement or to substitute it with wholly new agreements or reciting slogans from yesterday's."

He added: "The bet on the Soviet Union and Arab solidarity has failed and it is useless to continue to raise slogans that are based on bets."

The PPP leader said the Palestine authority now faced two choices: Whether to become a civil administration in Gaza and Jericho, or to develop the agreement on the way of establishing a Palestinian state.

Mr. Barghouti said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was still in a better position than the PNA whose authority is limited by the Cairo agreement, noting that there is a Palestinian majority living outside Palestine and the self-rule areas.

He said the PLO's duties include working on regaining Jerusalem and solving the issues of refugees and settlements in accordance with international legitimacy.

Thus, he said, the PLO has more duties than the PNA, and mixing the two authorities would undermine struggle to achieve these goals.

He warned that there was a danger of splits emerging in the lines of the Palestinian people if the PLO merges with the PNA since the PLO was created outside Palestine and where three to four million refugees are living.

"If the PLO merges within the PNA it will leave a vacuum, prompting Palestinians to fill it which means there is a danger of splitting the Palestinian people," he said.

Mr. Barghouti called for preserving the PLO and for establishing new departments in the organisation for Jerusalem, refugees and settlements.

Mr. Barghouti said the

COLUMN

Tea at the rectory takes on new meaning

TREVISO, Italy (R) — A Polish Orthodox priest who ran a drug rehabilitation centre near the northern Italian town of Treviso has been arrested on charges of cocaine trafficking. Plainclothes police posing as clients arrested Fanucio Lino Vivian, 36, the leader of the small Orthodox community in the town of Montaner Di Sarmede, after they found a small quantity of cocaine at his home. The arrest was part of a larger investigation into drug trafficking in the area and police said they had received anonymous tips that the priest had sold drugs during parties at the rectory.

Drummer likes to wake up in the morning

LOS ANGELES (R) — Former Guns N' Roses drummer Steven Adler said he is recovering from an overdose of heroin and cocaine, and hopes he can kick the addictions that forced him out of the hard-living band in 1990. "I'm detoxing after doing heroin and coke and I'm just thankful I'm alive and that I was able to get in here," Adler, 29, said from Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre. "The whole idea of coming here and detoxing is to stay off drugs. I wanna start working again." "It's great waking up in the morning and not being sick."

War stops for the movies

LONDON (R) — The head of Sarajevo's only working cinema is flying to Scotland to choose additions to its depleted stock from among the 350 films to be shown at the Edinburgh Film Festival, organisers said. After protracted negotiations, Almir Palata and his assistant Asia Hafner were flown out of the besieged Bosnian capital to Zagreb by the United Nations, working in collaboration with British diplomats, they said. The two were expected to arrive in Edinburgh late Friday and view many of the films to be shown at the festival before it begins on Aug. 13.

May I introduce myself? Robson, car thief

SAO PAULO (R) — A Brazilian car thief who specialised in stealing luxury BMW models advertised his trade by distributing calling cards to potential clients stating his profession as "thief". police said. Detectives who arrested Robson Augusto Do Nascimento Araujo found business cards saying he worked for the fictitious firm of Thefts and Holdups Ltd., on 666 Crime Street, Del Monte Gardens. Using the false name Robson Kleber Augusto, he gave his title as "ladro" (thief). "In my 12 years in the Police Department I have never come across such insolence," police chief Valter De Abreu said.

Indian court suspends ruling on Muslim divorce

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Supreme Court has ordered a review of a lower court decision that struck down the age-old Muslim divorce custom as unconstitutional. The ruling by a two-judge bench Thursday means that, for the time being, a Muslim can again divorce his wife by saying "talaq" three times in succession. "Talaq" means divorce in the Arabic language. The divorce 25 years ago of Khatron Nisa has become a test case for the priority of the nation's secular constitution over the authority of religious law in personal affairs like marriage and divorce. India is the home of more than 100 million Muslims, who follow the Muslim personal law. Hindus are 82 per cent of India's population of 900 million. In its ruling, the Supreme Court said that in view of the importance of the issue, a panel of three judges will consider the case in November. Feminists often argue that the Muslim code is abused by men who divorce their wives for the tiniest of reasons, but in Ms. Nisa's case it is the woman who is seeking that the law be upheld.

He said the coup plotters had no advance contact with Senegal, which sent troops to stop a coup attempt in 1981.

"We had no contact with

(Continued on page 2)

drill in line